

*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 June 2017

Friday

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 23, 2017 | FRIDAY

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO**  
(As of 5:00 PM - June 22, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:29 AM	6:28 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
4:25 AM	5:35 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b> JUN 17 7:35 PM	<b>NEW MOON</b> JUN 24 5:21 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 4:54 PM -0.05 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 8:39 AM 1.25 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	JUNE 22	JUNE 23	JUNE 24	JUNE 25	JUNE 26	JUNE 27
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	26 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17 - 25 °C	17 - 23 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	26 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

WEEKDAYS  
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM  
WEEKENDS  
6AM

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

23 June 2017



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# PH, 2 NEIGHBORS CLOSE RANKS VS TERRORISTS

Manila, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur agree to fight and halt the growth of extremism in Southeast Asia.

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**  
and **Leila B. Salaverria**  
@Team Inquirer

The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to closely cooperate to halt the flow of militants, weapons, funds and extremists propaganda across their borders as they expressed alarm over recent attacks in their region.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano and his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts held talks in Manila on Thursday with top security officials on a joint plan of action as the Philippine military battled Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorists in Marawi City.

The trilateral meeting was held after President Duterte and Indonesian

President Joko Widodo spoke by phone on Wednesday night and agreed to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on Thursday that the phone call between the two leaders was "productive and fruitful," with Widodo reasserting Indonesia's com-

mitment to fight terrorists and help bring peace to Mindanao.

"President Widodo reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to support the Philippines in countering terrorism, including restoring peace and stability in the southern Philippines," Abella said.

He said Mr. Duterte welcomed Widodo's pledge and stressed his ad-

ministration's resolve to work closely with Indonesia and like-minded states in fighting terrorism to maintain peace in the region.

Jolted by the May 23 attack on Marawi, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia have launched joint maritime patrols to prevent piracy, kidnapping and the cross-border movement of fugitives and extremists.

**A2**

## FROM A1

Malaysians and Indonesians were among foreign fighters killed by the military in Marawi, where it is battling Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who seized the city to open an enclave for the Middle East-based IS jihadist group in Southeast Asia.

### Joint plan of action

The fighting enters its fifth week on Friday, with the military saying the terrorists have been cornered in a square-kilometer pocket of the city and

troops are advancing on them.

On Thursday, Cayetano and his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts gathered in Manila with top security officials to discuss a joint plan of action to deal with the threat of extremism in the region.

"This threat is beyond borders. No country is immune from terrorism," said Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

She said the threat of terrorism was "even more worrying" because of the use of social media.

"Therefore cooperation among the three of us is a necessity, cooperation among the three of us is a must," she said.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said terrorists today had "proven to be experts in using social media to recruit members in faraway countries."

"In the past, terrorism maintained a sense of self-preservation, unlike today. It is far more difficult to stop people who are willing to die," he said.

Anifah also said counterterrorism efforts must be innovative, since radical groups have taken advantage of social media to spread their perverted ideology and recruit from around the world.

"There is a need to agree to formalize our cooperation

through the establishment of mechanisms which will include all relevant stakeholders," he added, citing the need for prompt exchange of information and to strengthen intelligence gathering, and assist investigation of cross-border terrorist activities.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Philippine National Police Chief Ronald dela Rosa and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon attended the meeting with their Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts.

At the end of the three-hour meeting, Cayetano was asked whether the Philippines got in-

formation from Indonesia and Malaysia to help the military defeat the terrorists in Marawi.

"We have achieved that purpose," Cayetano replied, without elaborating.

### Joint statement

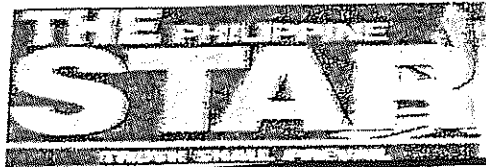
In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the three diplomats expressed "concern over the recent incidents of terrorism and violent extremism in their countries" and their desire to plot joint strategies to combat it.

The three neighboring countries also agreed to enhance intelligence and information sharing on potential, imminent

and real threat; stop the flow of terrorist financing; contain the spread of terrorism and related content in cyberspace and on social media; prevent and suppress terrorist exploitation of information and communication technology.

They also agreed to prevent and stop arms smuggling and the movement of terrorists; consider specialized military and law enforcement training; and counter the narrative of extremist groups through education and promotion of tolerance, moderation and unity in diversity. —WITH REPORTS FROM AP AND REUTERS INC

23 June 2017



Page: 1

# Rody, Widodo reaffirm commitment vs terror

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The Philippines and Indonesia vowed to work closely to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia as the Duterte administration continues to grapple with members of the Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

The commitment was made during a telephone conversation between President Duterte and his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo on Wednesday night.

The conversation took place before the trilateral security meeting among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in Manila yesterday.

"The call was productive and fruitful. They both reaffirmed the need to step up cooperation to address threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a press briefing yesterday.

Widodo reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to support the Philippines in countering terrorism, including restoring

Turn to Page 2

peace and stability in the south, Abella said.

"The President also welcomed Widodo's expression of commitment and emphasized the Philippine government's resolve to work closer with Indonesia and like-minded states to address these is-

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sues," he said.

Widodo called Duterte at around 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

"They noted the importance of the trilateral meeting, which aims to foster cooperation against terrorism among regional neighboring states," Abella said.

On Tuesday, Duterte said he would discuss with Widodo the presence of Indonesian extremists in Marawi.

"I think most of the foreign fighters were Indonesians," Duterte added.

### Trilateral security meeting

The foreign ministers of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia reaffirmed yesterday their desire to work together to implement counterterrorism measures amid the incidents of terrorism and violent extremism in their countries.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Sri Anifah Hj Aman met in Manila to enhance cooperation in addressing threats of terrorism in the region.

The trilateral security meeting reaffirmed the three nations' commitment to effectively address existing as well as emerging transnational challenges and threats that have the potential to undermine the stability and wellbeing of countries in the region.

The meeting was held at the Conrad Hotel in Pasay City.

Malaysia proposed yesterday the formalization of the mechanism of the trilateral security meeting with the Philippines and Indonesia, seen as an urgent task evidenced by the conflict in Marawi City.

Malaysia's foreign minister said the formal mechanism would include sharing of experiences and information that could be translated into concrete action.

"There is a need to agree to formalize our cooperation through the establishment of mechanism, which will include

all stakeholders. This is an urgent task as evidenced in the situation in Marawi City. Countries must participate," Anifah said.

The ministers agreed to task their senior officials to consider the proposed Plan of Action in the context of the following measures: enhance effort and cooperation in addressing the root causes and underlying conditions of extremism including but not limited to poverty, illegal drugs, crime and social injustice; promote social and economic development particularly in adjoining areas of the three countries; enhance the intelligence and information sharing among security and intelligence agencies on potential, imminent and real threats; stop the flow of terrorist financing; contain the spread of terrorism and terrorism-related content in cyberspace, particularly on social media.

Also included in the Plan of Action are measures to prevent the terrorist exploitation of information and communication technology and the dissemination of terrorist messages; stop the flow of arms smuggling as well as the movement of terrorists.

The proposed Plan of Action will consider the provision of specialized military and law enforcement training; support the trilateral cooperative arrangement and other sub-regional efforts to combat transnational crime; review and implement existing agreements on terrorism and make a cross-analysis comparison of each other's laws on terrorism with a view to enhancing legislation.

It will also protect vulnerable groups, particularly women, children and the youth, from terrorism.

The foreign ministers agreed to hold their next meeting in Indonesia in October.

The Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism, 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and the 2nd Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism will be held in Indonesia,

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Myanmar and the Philippines, respectively, this year.

Army Vision: E

The meeting was also attended by *of national pride* Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Indonesia General TNI Gatot Nurmantyo and Chief of Defense Force of Malaysia YM General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor.

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Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa, Indonesian National Police General M. Tito Karnavian and Inspector General of Police of Malaysia YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Khalid Abu Bakar also attended the meeting.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and chief of the National Counter Terrorism Agency Commissioner General Suhardi Alius were also present at the meeting.

Joint maritime operations by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to fight transnational crimes and terrorism in the Sulu Sea were launched on Monday in Tarakan, North Kalimantan, Indonesia, just across the border of Sabah, Malaysia.

The launching of the trilateral maritime patrol was attended by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu and Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein.

Earlier, Lorenzana said eight foreign jihadists have been killed since the fighting between government troops and Maute militants erupted in Marawi City last month. Among the slain jihadists were Indonesians, Malaysians, a Yemeni and a Chechen.

Ryamizard Ryacudu said there are around 1,200 Islamic State members in the Philippines.

The trilateral maritime agreement among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines is expected to boost business in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), an official said.

Ishak Mastura, ARMM Regional Board of Investment chairman, said the trilateral patrols in the region would help spur business activities in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Before attending the security meeting in Manila, Dela Rosa was present at the turnover of command at the PNP Regional Office 10 in Cagayan de Oro City, where Chief Supt. Timoteo Pacleb, his mistah at the Philippine Military Academy, took over as the PNP 10 regional director.

Pacleb replaced Chief Supt. Agripino Javier, who retired from the police service yesterday.

The PNP chief said they have not monitored terror threats in Northern Mindanao, specifically in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. - With Pia Lee-Brago, Gerry Lee Gorit, Roel Pareño

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23 June 2017

Manila  
**Standard**

Page: A1

# Maute enlists 40 foreign terrorists

By Sara Susanne D. Fabunan

**F**ORTY foreigners have joined the Maute group to battle the government, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said Thursday.

In an interview, Año said 20 of the foreign terrorists were Indonesians, while the rest are from Malaysia, Saudi, Yemen, and other countries.

Indonesians have also joined other terrorist groups, such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, the Abu Sayyaf and the AKP, he said.

Año also said Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf leader, and Abdullah Maute, one of the two Maute brothers, were still

alive. The other Maute brother, Omar, was believed to be dead.

Fighting between the Maute terrorist group and government troops has been going on in Marawi City since May 23.

Año said local politicians who were funding the Maute operations had no links to the Islamic State, but were helping the local terrorists for their own reasons.

"They have common interests, which is to fight the government, so they join

or they support Maute for their personal political interest, but that makes them also guilty," he said.

Año admitted they did not have a timeline to retaking Marawi City, where the fighting has been building-to-building.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson for Joint Task Force Marawi, said Thursday the Maute terrorists were abandoning their firearms and blending in with

*Next page*

## Maute...

From A1

civilian evacuees to get out of Marawi City.

"As their bailiwick native land, the terrorists are knowledgeable of the terrain here in Marawi City. They are also using that advantage to slip out of the area to escape," Herrera said in a statement.

Government security forces have arrested several alleged high-profile members of the Maute group, including Cayamora and Farjana Maute, parents of Abdullah and Omar, leaders of the group, as well as the brothers' other siblings.

Amid this, Herrera assured the public that government troops are doing everything to track down members of the group who were able to flee Marawi City.

Sporadic clashes have been ongoing in Marawi City since May 23 after the Maute group attacked the city, prompting President Rodrigo Duterte to put the entire Mindanao under martial law.

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel

Rey, commander of Task Force Lanao, said improvised explosive devices planted by the group are delaying the clearing operations being conducted by government troops.

"The Maute terrorists are pushed back in a corner due to the AFP's continuous effort. But they are using IEDs to block the government troops," he said.

He added that Maute group members are using hostages as human shields and slaves to gain grounds.

"Hostages were even forced to place LPG tanks with fuel as IEDs against the AFP troops," he said.

Herrera said the number of Maute members still resisting government forces in Marawi has dwindled to a little over 100.

"According to the information we are getting from the ground troops operating in the area, there are more or less 100 members of Maute terrorist group left after one month battle here in Marawi," he said.

As of 6 p.m., June 21, a total of 276 Maute terrorists have been killed while 271 firearms have been recovered. On the

government side, 67 have been killed in action while 461 were wounded.

A total of 26 civilians have also been killed while 1,658 have been rescued due to the conflict.

The three suspected members of Maute terrorist group arrested by Philippine Coast Guards in Iloilo were charged Thursday before the Department of Justice's special panel of prosecutors.

The suspects identified as Faridah Pangompig Romato, of Carmen, Cagayan de Oro; Al-jadid Pangompig Romato, alias: Miks Jadid Romato, of Iligan City; and Abdulrahman Dimakuta Sevad, of Marantao, Lanao del Sur were presented before the DOJ's special panel of prosecutors for inquest proceedings on rebellion charges.

The hearing was held inside the Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City, where most arrested Maute members and supporters are currently detained pending request of the DOJ before the Supreme Court for their transfer to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. With Rey E. Requejo

23 June 2017

The Manila Times

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# 8 dead after BIFF attack in Cotabato

## 'Situation back to normal'

EIGHT people, including six terrorists, were killed following Wednesday's attack by the Islamic State (IS)-linked Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in North Cotabato, but the situation was "back to normal," the military said.

The two others killed were civilian Towan Dading Esmael, 61, and Abraham Sakilan Cutay, 33, who was training to be part of the civilian militia.

Ten people were injured: eight BIFF men and two militiamen.

Most of the more than 1,300 residents of Pigkawayan town evacuated by the military following the BIFF raid

► BIFFA2

■ BIFF FROM A1

## 8 dead

have returned to their homes, said Capt. Nap Alcarioto, spokesman of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade.

The BIFF bandits on Wednesday morning stormed a public school after retreating from an early-morning firefight with the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion. This was despite a martial law declaration over Mindanao amid the military offensive against the Maute group that attacked Marawi City last month.

"Normal situation [in Pigkawayan] is back since our civilians have already returned but not all of them. The situation in the highway is back to normal, Pigkawayan's entrance too," Alcarioto said in an interview.

Still, 30 members of the BIFF remained inside the school compound, and soldiers were pursuing others who escaped, he said. Authorities are on alert for possible attacks by the BIFF against law enforcers and civilians.

"[We are also conducting] clearing operations in the vicinity of Pigkawayan. That's what the troops are currently doing," said Capt. Arvin Encinas of the 6th Infantry Division.

Encinas said government troops went inside the school compound at around 6 p.m. on Wednesday, forcing BIFF members to leave behind civilians they had used as "human shields."

At least two of the escaping BIFF bandits were arrested by the Joint Task Force Central at a checkpoint in Maguindanao province.

Armed Forces of the Philippines

(AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. clarified that the school was not surrounded by the BIFF, but the terrorists managed to dig a tunnel to escape.

Classes in the school were temporarily suspended.

In a report, the AFP Western Mindanao Command identified the arrested bandits as Lahren Mantukay, 23 and Bardurin Limbay, 28, said to be members of the BIFF Special Operations Group under a certain "Palos."

The firefight between the military and the BIFF men lasted for about 11 hours, ending at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

A total of 1,370 evacuees from the villages of Malagakit, Simsiman, Banucagon and Central Tanasan were brought to the Pigkawayan National High School.

## 'No spillover'

Malacañang on Thursday took pains in saying that the Pigkawayan attack was not a spillover of the Marawi conflict.

"It's not connected so we cannot say it is a spillover. It is an opportunistic action coming from the BIFF group," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a news conference.

Abella issued the statement after President Rodrigo Duterte cautioned against a spillover of the Marawi siege into other parts of the country, which he emphasized was a sufficient reason to impose martial law in Mindanao.

But the Palace official clarified Duterte was "just giving heads up that we need to be aware of circumstances in our environment."

CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND  
DEMPSEY REYES

23 June 2017



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## Six BIFF men killed in firefight

By Francisco Tuyay

SIX members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters were killed in a clash with government troops in Barangay Malagakit, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on Wednesday, a military official said Thursday.

Capt. Napoleon Alcaroto, spokesman for the 602nd Brigade, said civilians told the military that the BIFF rebels retrieved the dead bodies and fled on board a motorized outrigger on the Ligusan Marsh.

Civilians also saw eight BIFF members who were wounded, Alcaroto said.

On the other hand, two members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit were wounded during the exchange of gunfire. *Next page*

“The situation is back to normal as most of the civilians particularly those residing along the highway are back at their homes while others are still in the evacuation centers,” Alcaroto said.

Classes at the Malagakit Elementary School, which the BIFF occupied for hours during the skirmishes, are still suspended.

Some 200 to 300 BIFF rebels swooped down on two military detachments in the villages of Malagakit, and Simsiman, and started firing at troops manning the posts on Wednesday.

The BIFF then forcibly entered and destroyed several houses in three villages, forcing civilians to flee to safer ground as fighting lasted for hours.

The BIFF withdrew under the cover of darkness, leaving a militiaman—Abraham Cutay and a civilian dead.

A military statement said 63 civilians were rescued by the Joint Task Force Central, which clashed with the BIFF rebels in North Cotabato.

Soldiers from the 602nd Brigade advanced towards the Malagakit Elementary School to rescue the hostages, who were used as human shields, and engaged the fleeing rebels at about 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The rebels left 31 of their captives behind as they fled.

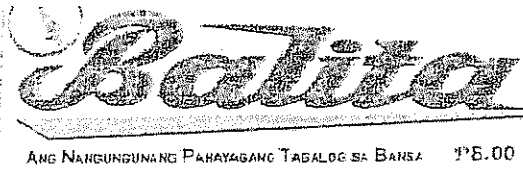
Thirty-two residents trapped in the crossfire left their homes and joined the rescued hostages.

Members of the 34th Infantry Battalion provided mortar fire support to the Simsiman Detachment in Barangay Simsiman, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato, and blockaded Barangay Malagakit, while troops from the 7th Infantry Battalion and the 341B attacked the rebels.

Two BIFF members were held by the troops of the 22nd Mechanized Company, 2nd Mechanized Battalion, Mechanized Division, at a checkpoint in Butilin, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday.

Troops found two sachets of shabu on the BIFF members. With  
**John Paolo Bencito**

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## BIFF bigo sa Cotabato: 31 bihag pinalaya; 8 patay, 10 sugatan

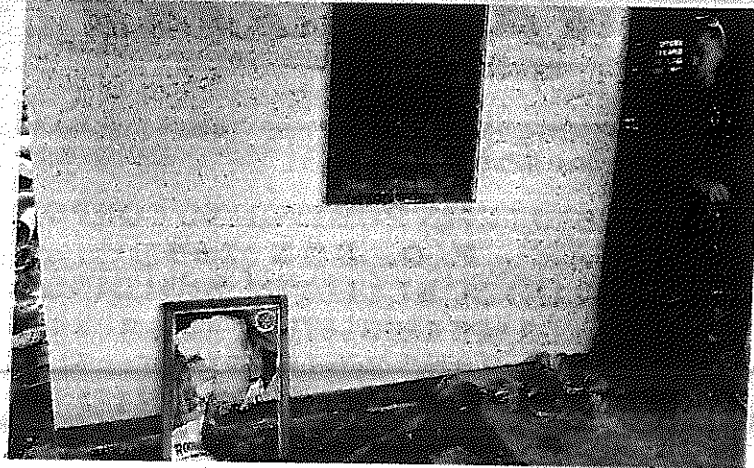
**Nina MALU CADELINA MANAR at FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

KIDAPAWAN CITY, North Cotabato – Walong katao, kabilang ang isang magsasaka, ang nasawi habang 10 iba pa ang nasugatan sa pakikipagbarkaban ng militar laban sa Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) nitong Miyerkules, habang napalaya na rin ang 31 sibilyan na binihag ng mga bandido sa pagtakas matapos salakayin ang Barangay Malagakit sa Pigcawayan, North Cotabato, imulat ng Cotabato Police Provincial Office (CPPO) at Philippine Army.

Kinilala ng CPPO ang napatay na si Abraham Cutay, trainee ng Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU); at Towan Dading Esmael, 61, magsasaka at residente ng Bgy. Malagakit. Ayon sa report ng 602nd Brigade ng Army, ang anim na iba pang napatay ay pawang kasapi ng BIFF.

Sinabi naman ni Capt. Napoleon Alcarino, tagapagsalita ng 602nd Brigade, na kabilang sa sampung nasugatan ang dalawang miyembro ng CAFGU na sina Angel Berona at Resty Segundera, habang wala ang mula sa BIFF.

Kinumpirma naman ni Army 6th Infantry Division spokesman Capt. Arvin Encinas na pinalaya na ng BIFF ang 31 bihag nito bandang 6:00 ng gabi o 12 oras makaraan nilang tangayin



ANG RAW? Pinagmamasdan ng tauhan ng Cotabato Provincial Public Safety Company ang sinunog na litrato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Malagakit Elementary School sa Pigcawayan, North Cotabato na sinalakay ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters nitong Miyerkules.

**KEITH BACONGO**

ang mga ito.

"Nung padilim na, at around six o'clock, habang gumagapang papalapit 'yung ating tropa, tunakas sila leaving behind itong civilians na ginawa nilang hostages," sabi ni Encinas.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Angelo Lutera, commander ng 34th Infantry Battalion,

pasado 6:00 ng gabi ay nabawi na nila ang Malagakit Elementary School, na ginamit ng BIFF makaraang umatake sa lugar at sa kalapit nitong Bgy. Simsiman sa Pigcawayan.

Sa kabila nito, nilinaw ni Lutera na hindi pa nila biribigyan ng "go signal" ang evacuees upang magsibalik sa tahanan ng mga ito habang tinatapos nila ang clearing operations sa lugar.

Aniya, inaalam pa nila kung walang itinanim na bomba ang BIFF sa lugar.

Batay sa datos mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan ng Pigcawayan at Midsayap, nasa 1,762 evacuees ang nakatuloy pa rin sa mga evacuation center bandang 2:00 ng hapon kahapon.

### SAKLOT NG TAKOT

Nag-iyak ang ilang residente ng Bgy. Malagakit, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato habang naghahanda sa paglikas nitong Miyerkules ilang oras makaraang salakayin ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters ang dalawang military outpost at isang paaralang elementarya sa lugar.

REUTERS/MARCONI  
NAVALES



23 June 2017



Page: 16

# BIFF rebels leave village

By Williamor A. Magbanua  
and Edwin O. Fernandez  
@inqmindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The crisis that gripped a community in Pigcawayan town in North Cotabato province when about 200 Moro rebels stormed a government militia outpost and sparked a gunfight is over.

But the 15-hour standoff, which started when members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) attacked the villages of Malagakit and Simsiman at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, killed a government militiaman and wounded two others. The fighting also forced more than 1,000 residents to flee their villages.

The military claimed to have killed six and wounded eight of the fleeing BIFF men but Abu Misri Mama, spokesperson for BIFF, denied this. Mama said no one among his group was killed or wounded.

Capt. Napoleon Alcarioto, 602nd Brigade spokesperson, said Abraham Cutay, who was scheduled to graduate from a six-month Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit training on Thursday, was killed by a BIFF recruit in front of his wife as they tried to flee Barangay Malagakit.

Cutay was hit in the knee as he and his family tried to flee during the gunfight.

"They tried to escape but they were caught by BIFF members," Alcarioto said, quoting the victim's wife.

Cutay's wife said the BIFF recruit who killed her husband was initially hesitant to pull the trigger but was threatened by some BIFF members that he

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would be killed if he would not shoot Cutay.

Alcarioto said two other militiamen, Angel Verona and Resty Segundera, were wounded in the firefight on Wednesday.

The standoff ended on Wednesday night when BIFF men withdrew toward Liguasan Marsh in the nearby province of Maguindanao.

Mayor Eliseo Gracesa said at least 73 residents, who were trapped in the village when fighting erupted, were unhurt.

Capt. Arvin John Encinas, spokesperson for the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said BIFF members also freed 31 hostages, among them children, at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"Clearly, they were used as

human shields by BIFF," Encinas said. "When darkness came, they fled."

Mama said they attacked the village as a response to military offensives in Mamasapano town in Maguindanao. He warned the military of more attacks.

"I told you we did not use civilians as human shields. We protected them inside the school (Malagakit Elementary School)," Mama told the inquirer in a telephone interview on Thursday.

Alcarioto said information on slain and wounded BIFF members came from residents who were rescued by soldiers.

These residents, he said, told soldiers that BIFF rebels took the bodies of their slain companions as they fled on

board a motorized banca traversing Liguasan Marsh.

"We are basing our claim on the accounts of civilians trapped and held hostage inside Malagakit Elementary School. They were later rescued by our 34th Infantry Battalion forces," Alcarioto said.

Romeo Capao-an, Pigcawayan municipal disaster risk reduction and management officer, said the number of displaced residents reached 1,200 on Thursday. He said the local government took them to a covered court in Barangay Poblacion.

Capao-an said they discouraged residents from returning to their villages on Thursday while bomb experts were clearing the area of im-

proved explosive devices.

Eight public schools in villages surrounding Malagakit suspended their classes on Wednesday and Thursday, Garcesa said.

Elpidio Singon, a farmer living close to the militia outpost in Malagakit, said he was awakened by gunfire on Wednesday.

"We ducked and when gunfire stopped, I brought my family out of the house and we ran away," Singon said.

He said he saw his neighbors also fleeing, bringing with them their children and some personal belongings.

"We ran with nothing but only our clothes on our back," another villager, Susan Cando, 39, told reporters. -INQ



23 June 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## BIFF men escaped through marshland

**BY VICTOR REYES  
AND RAYMOND AFRICA**

THE military and the police yesterday said members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front, who occupied a school in Pigkawayan town in North Cotabato Wednesday, escaped aboard pump boats through a marshland behind the school.

Soldiers lacked “water assets” that would have enabled them to pursue the BIFF attackers, said Capt. Nap Alcarioto, spokesman of the Army’s 802nd Brigade based in North Cotabato.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan, deputy regional director for operations of Central Mindanao Police Regional Office, said the pump boats used by the BIFF men

were docked at the shorelines of Liguasan Marsh, which is several meters from the rear portion of the Malagakit Elementary School in Barangay Malagakit.

He said the soldiers were not able to pursue the escaping BIFF men as Liguasan Marsh is vast.

Liguasan Marsh connects the towns of Pikit and Midsayap, both in North Cotabato, and Cotabato City, an independent component city of Maguindanao province.

Suan said a detachment was set up at the back of the school, manned by members of the Regional Public Safety Battalion, to prevent similar attacks.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen.

See BIFF > Page B6

Army Visio. E. 24

Restituto Padilla said the BIFF men escaped through a portion of the school, which was unguarded by soldiers.

"The school was not actually completely surrounded. One area was not covered. They (BIFF members) sensed the troops were preparing (to strike) and there was also reinforcement that arrived," said Padilla.

"Under the cover of darkness, they withdrew. The good thing is that they left behind the hostages, who we rescued," he said.

Pursuit operations are being conducted by troops of the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion, said Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao.

Encinas also said 30 BIFF men were involved in the occupation of the school and abduction of 31 civilians, including students. The BIFF men originally plotted to attack a military detachment in the nearby Barangay Simsiman but occupied the school instead after their plan was thwarted by barangay security personnel.

Alcarioto maintained the BIFF group was composed of around 200 to 300 men.

He also said they escaped through the marshland.

"Between Barangays Malagakit and Simsiman, that's a marshland. They extricated through that area, they withdrew using pump boats," he said.

The BIFF started the attack at around 6 a.m. and withdrew from the school at around 6 p.m. as soldiers were moving to rescue the hostages.

The BIFF left behind the civilian hostages. Also recovered were 32 civilians trapped in the fighting.

"Troops of 602nd Brigade advanced towards Malagakit Elementary School at around 6 in the evening to rescue the hostages held by the BIFF and upon seeing the government troops, the bandits hastily retreated going to barangay Simsiman leaving behind their captives," said Encinas.

"At present, Barangay Malagakit is now cleared from the BIFF bandits. Likewise, pursuit operation is still being conducted," said Encinas.

Padilla said the conflict has resulted in the death of four BIFF men and a government militiaman, and wounding of two other militiamen.

Padilla also said the school remained close as of yesterday as troops were clearing it of improvised explosive devices.

Suan said the situation in the area is now "normal."

Suan also said a militiaman and an elderly man were killed by the BIFF, but residents said there were an undetermined number of killed on the enemy side as bodies wrapped in "malong" were seen being carried away by the BIFF while withdrawing towards Liguasan Marsh.

The killed militia was identified as Abraham Cutay, who was supposed to graduate as a civilian volunteer on June 27.

Suan said the BIFF had snipers positioned in strategic areas.

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, Securing the land

23 June 2017



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# BIFF hostages now safe; pursuit operations still on

By Mario J. Mallari

Government security forces rescued all 68 civilians held as human shields and trapped during the brief occupation of a school in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) on Wednesday.

However, the BIFF attack resulted in the killing of two civilians, identified as Towan Esmal, 61, a farmer and a resident of Barangay Simsiman, and

Abraham Cutay, 33, a Caggu trainee and a resident of Barangay Malagakit.

More or less 300 BIFF members on Wednesday initially attacked a Caggu detachment in Barangay Simsiman before taking hostages from Malagakit Elementary School upon their withdrawal.

Capt. Napoleon Alcaroto, spokesman for the Army's 602nd Brigade, said that normalcy is back in Pigcawayan after government forces managed to foil the BIFF attack.

"The situation is now normal. Some civilians have returned to their communities," Alcaroto said.

Alcaroto said that the BIFF managed to withdraw from the back of the barangays which was a marshland.

"They quickly extricated from the back, between barangays Malagakit and Simsiman...they withdrew using pumpboat," Alcaroto said.

However, he stressed that pursuit operations are still ongoing against the BIFF attackers.

The military's Joint Task Force Central said that all 68 civilians previously held as human shields and were trapped during the skirmishes in Pigcawayan were rescued safely.

The task force also announced that two BIFF members were intercepted along a checkpoint in Maguindanao hours after the atrocity.

Elements of the 602nd Brigade rescued 31 civilians used as human shields after engaging the fleeing BIFF members in Barangay Malagakit at around 6 p.m. Wednesday.

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Page: 1

# BIFF frees 31 hostages

Attack in North Cotabato leaves 8 people dead, 10 others wounded

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD, AARON B. RECUENCO, and MALU CADELINA MANAR

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that 31 civilians earlier held hostage by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) who attacked Pigcawayan, North Cotabato, were freed

by the terrorist group Wednesday night.

The attack, which started from the harassments of a barangay security office and a military detachment at

around 6 a.m. on Wednesday, also left eight people dead – six BIFF fighters, a government militiaman, and a farmer. Ten others were wounded.

Police and military officials ► 6

said they have yet to verify the death of the six BIFF fighters, but they confirmed the death of Abraham Cutay a government militiaman stationed at the military detachment that was harassed by the BIFF.

“He was about to graduate on June 27 as CAA (Civilian Active Auxiliary),” said Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos, spokesman of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Captain Napoleon Alcarrioto, 602nd Brigade spokesman, said two other companions of Cutay – Angel Verona and Resty Segundera – were among the wounded. Berona and Segundera suffered only minor injuries and were already discharged from the hospital. The rest of the wounded were members of the BIFF.

Army 6th Infantry Division spokesman Captain Arvin Encinas said the 31 hostages were reportedly released at about 6 p.m. or about 12 hours after they were seized by the heavily armed BIFF men, who fled to the marsh in Maguindanao.

“Nung padilim na at around 6 o’ clock habang gumagapang papalapit yung ating tropa, tumakas sila leaving behind itong civilians na ginawa nilang hostages (As our troops inch closer at around 6 p.m., they fled, leaving behind the civilian hostages),” Encinas said.

**No more BIFF**

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Phone: (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Army Captain Nap Alcarioto, spokesman of the Army's 602nd Brigade, said that based on reports, the area has already been cleared of BIFF men.

Lt. Col. Angelo Lutera, commander of the 34th Infantry Battalion, said that as of 6 p.m., on June 21, they already occupied Malagakit Elementary School in Barangay Malagakit. The school was used as temporary base of the BIFF after they raided the village and nearby Barangay Sinsiman, both in Pigcawayan, last Wednesday.

Despite this, Lutera said they have not yet given the displaced families the "go signal" to return to their houses due to ongoing clearing operations in the area.

Lutera, in an interview Thursday over Catholic-ran DXND, said they are still in search for bombs which might have been planted by the BIFF to prevent government troops from pursuing them in their escape.

Alcarioto said ground forces are also concentrating on retrieval operations for some civilians still hiding after being trapped as a result of the standoff.

**Review defense plan**

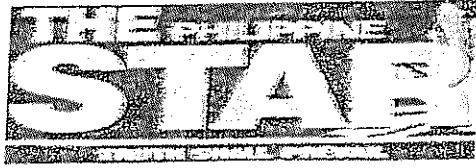
Meanwhile, the PNP leadership reminded all its police commanders to review their defense plan, especially in defending police stations and vital installations, amid the communist rebel and BIFF attacks.

"We are reminding our field commanders to look at their camp defense plans and the guarding of vital installations in order to prevent these kinds of attack," said Carlos.

Early this week, Maasin Police Station in Iloilo was overrun by communist rebels who ransacked the police station's armory and communication room.

On Wednesday, the local police have scrambled to guard the police stations and other establishments in North Cotabato after the BIFF attack.

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## Troops pursue BIFF raiders in Cotabato

By JAIME LAUDE

Combined government troops and militiamen have driven back to the Liguasan Marsh more than a hundred Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) rebels who tried to occupy two villages in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato the other day.

Captain Arvin Incinas, spokesman of the 6th Infantry Division, said pursuit operations are ongoing against the BIFF terrorists who in their escape had occupied an elementary school in Barangay Malagakit, holding a

civilian and a number of school children as hostages.

"They (BIFF) just waited for nightfall to leave the school and abandon their hostages used as human shields," Incinas said.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Shirlyn Macasarte-Villanueva, a member of the provincial peace and order council, yesterday urged Muslim and Christian residents to disregard obvious attempts to break their solidarity.

"Let us be sober and continue with the friendship and solidarity that

Turn to Page 3

we have. We just have to be vigilant and we need to help each other prevent a repeat of the incident," Villanueva said.

The BIFF terrorists, led by Abunawas Damiog, Abu Salden and Salahudin Hassan, destroyed religious statues in a Catholic chapel and robbed abandoned houses and stores in Malagakit. They also ransacked the barangay hall and a nearby health clinic.

Salvador Almonia Jr., barangay Malagakit chairman, led a 30-member barangay volunteer militia in blocking the initial route the terrorists took.

He said the bandits destroyed portraits of President Duterte in the buildings and classrooms they looted.

Education Secretary Lenor Briones reminded everyone that schools and learning spaces are zones of peace and that the security and safety of learners, teachers and non-teaching personnel is a priority during conflict, disaster and emergency.

The Department of Education said that although the extent of the damage has yet to be determined, no learner and personnel were being held hostage as of yesterday.

Classes remain suspended in the area as government troops continue with clearing

operations.

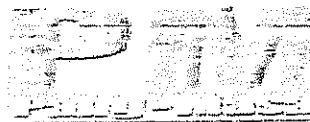
Malagakit Elementary School was reportedly damaged while Simsiman High School confirmed that its offices and computer room were ransacked by the terrorists. An on-duty school guard managed to escape to a nearby military detachment after the BIFF fired at him.

A day prior to the simultaneous attack in Barangays Malagakit and Simsiman, the Army acted on intelligence warning of an impending assault and reinforced its ranks to secure the two villages, he added. Both barangays, located along the marsh, were used as staging points for the assault.

"Under cover of darkness, they were able to extricate from the area on board pump boats," said Capt. Nap Alcarioto, spokesman of the Army's 602nd Brigade.

Alcarioto cited the key role of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) in foiling the simultaneous assault launched by 200 to 300 BIFF terrorists on the two villages. He said BPAT, an organized militia force composed mostly of farmers, assisted the soldiers in pushing the attackers back to Liguasan Marsh. – With Rainier Allan Ronda, John Unson, Emmanuel Tupas

23 June 2017



Pahina. 2

### **11 Abu Sayyaf Group sumuko sa militar**

Isang sub-commander ng Abu Sayyaf Group at 11 tauhan nito ang sumuko sa tropa ng militar bitbit ang kanilang mga armas kamakalawa sa Basilan.

Kinilala ni Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmin-com) ang mga sumukong Abu Sayyaf sa pangunguna ng kanilang Sub Commander na si Ibrahim Malat Sulayman, tubong Albarka, Basilan; Salimbawa Ahlii Tanjal; Salim Toong Masud; Salasni Ambing Mahawan; Ado Emmong; Ahmad Abbi alyas Bolkia; pawang mga tauhan ni ASG Commander Nurhassan Jamiri, at mga tauhan ni Commander Furuji Indaman na sina Mar-je Cabulur Indama, Muhammad Kalung-Hassan, Salman Hawkasa; Husael Fernandez; Ebtor Asana; at Madja Palinta.

Isinuko din ng mga ito ang kanilang pitong malalakas na kalibre ng mga armas at apat na maiikling mga armas na may magazine at mga bala.

Sa tala, mula Enero 1, 2017 hanggang sa buwang kasalukuyan ay umaabot na sa kabuuang 96 Abu Sayyaf members ang sumuko sa JTF Western Mindanao kung saan 54 dito ay mula sa Basilan, 19 sa Sulu, 21 sa Tawi-Tawi at dalawa mula sa Zamboanga City. - Joy Cantos

23 June 2017



Pahina. 8

## 10 Abu sumuko sa militar

Sumuko sa tropa ng militar ang 10 miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group kabilang ang kanilang sub-kumander na bitbit ang kani-kanilang armas sa bayan ng Sumilip, Basilan kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command, ang mga sumukong Abu Sayyaf ay pinangunahan ni Sub Commander Ibrahim Malat Sulayman, Salimbawa Ahlil Tanjal, Salim Toong Masud, Salasni Ambing Mahawan, Ado Emmong, Ahmad "Bolkia" Abbi, mga tauhan ni Kumander Nurhassan Jamiri, at mga tauhan ni Kumander Furuji Indaman na sina Mar-ic Cabulut Indama, Muhammad Kalung-Hassan, Saiman Hawkasa, Husael Fernandez, Ebtor Asana at si Madja Palinta.

Isinuko rin ng 10 ASG ang pitong malalakas na kalibre ng armas at apat na maikling baril na may magazine at mga bala.

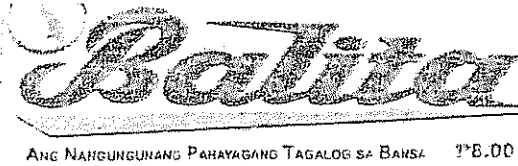
Bandang alas-10 ng umaga nang sumuko ang grupo ni Sulayman sa tropa ng Army's 68<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion at 74<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion ng Joint Task Force Basilan sa Sumisip Municipal Hall Complex sa Barangay Buli-Buli sa nasabing bayan.

"With the continuing pressure employed by the troops on the ground, we are confident that more Abu Sayyaf members will be compelled to cross the line. This feat will convince us even more to intensify our offensives against the remaining fighters," pahayag pa ng opisyal.

Umaabot na sa kabuuang 96 Abu Sayyaf ang sumuko sa JTF Western Mindanao simula pa noong Enero 2017 kung saan 54 ay mula sa Basilan, 19 sa Sulu, 21 sa Tawi-Tawi at dalawa mula sa Zamboanga City. *Joy Cantos*



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## 11 Abu Sayyaf sumuko, 29 naaresto

Inihayag kahapon ng militar na 11 pang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), kabilang ang isang sub-leader, ang sumuko sa awtoridad at nagsuko rin ng kanilang mga armas sa kasagsagan ng pinaigting na combat operations ng militar sa Basilan.

Sumuko si Ibrahim Malat Sulayman, sub-leader ng ASG at tubong Barangay Macalang, Albarka, at 10 pang bandido sa tropa ng Joint Task Force Basilan, na binubuo ng 68th Infantry Battalion at ng 74th Infantry Battalion, sa isang seremonya sa Sumisip Municipal Hall Complex sa Bgy. Buli-Buli, Sumisip, Basilan bandang 10:00 ng umaga.

Bukod kay Sulayman, sumuko rin sa awtoridad ang mga kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf na sina Salimbawa Ahilil Tanjal, alyas Salim Toong Masud; Salasni Ambing Mahawan, alyas Ado Emmong; Ahmad Abbi, alyas Bolkia, pawang nasa ilalim ni Nurhassan Jamiri; Marie Cabulut Indama, tauhan ni Furuji Indama; Muhammad Kalung-Hassan; Salman Hawkasa; Husael Fernandez; Roy Mendoza Cabiangan; Ebtor Asano;

at Madja Palinta

Isinuko rin ng 11 ang pitong matataas na kalibre ng baril at apat na low-powered firearms na may mga magazine at bala.

Simula noong Enero 1, 2017, may kabuuang 96 na Abu Sayyaf na ang sumuko sa Joint Task Forces ng Western Mindanao: 54 ang sumuko sa Basilan, 19 sa Sulu, 21 sa Tawi-Tawi, at dalawa sa Zamboanga City.

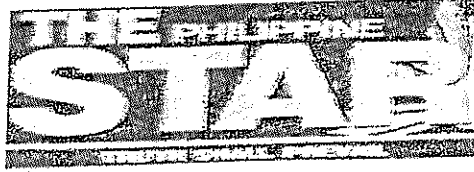
Kasabay nito, kinumpirma kahapon ng militar na pinipigil ngayon ng pulisya ang 29 na miyembro ng ASG na naaresto sa Sulu.

Ayon kay Brig. General Cirilito Sobejana, commander ng Joint Task Force Sulu, 29 na katao ang inaresto sa Bgy. Bangkal, Patikul, Sulu, sa matagumpay na operasyon na pinangunahan ng Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) at Joint Task Force Sulu.

Sinabi ni Sobejana na kabilang sa mga naaresto ang Ajang-Ajang Group ng ASG.

**Francis Wakefield  
at Fer Taboy**

23 June 2017



Page: 1



Soldiers conduct a patrol in the town of Pigkawayan in North Cotabato yesterday, a day after members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters raided two villages in the province.

23 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

AFTER MONTH-LONG OFFENSIVE, MILITARY WARNS

# 'Marawi war may last longer'

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**A**FTER a month of fighting in Marawi, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday admitted for the first time it would be hard to flush the remaining Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute terrorists out of the city.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., the AFP spokesman, described the armed conflict in Marawi as a "very complicated engagement," considering that the city has an urban terrain.

Padilla then cited a number of prolonged offensives against terrorists overseas, such as in the Iraqi cities of Mosul, Ramadi and Fallujah.

"So if you will compare [these events] to this current and ongoing engagement, the terrains are very much the same and we are doing this very carefully," he told reporters.

WAR FROM A1

# Marawi war may last

"We have compounding complex issues: the presence of hostages, residents [staying] in their homes and continued discovery of IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," he added.

Padilla warned that fighting in Marawi City could take longer.

"People are very impatient but they don't know the sacrifices of their soldiers. It's easy to say, 'Why are we not finished yet, why are we not done with this yet,'" he said.

The military official dared those criticizing the pace of military operations to go to Marawi "so that you will know the complexity of the battlefield."

At least 276 suspected terrorists have been killed since clashes between the Maute group and government troops began on May 23. Sixty-seven soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians have also been killed.

The military said some 500 civil-

ians were still trapped in Marawi.

Fighting began after the government's failed attempt to capture the supposed IS chief in the region, Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, in the Muslim-majority city.

The Maute men then went on a rampage, torching schools and business establishments and seizing and killing hostages.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law on May 23, as well as suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus to allow warrantless arrests.

The military had claimed fighting would end in days, but failed to meet its own deadlines to end

the conflict, including that on June 12, Independence Day.

## Booby traps

Padilla blamed booby traps placed by the Maute bandits in Marawi.

Last weekend, members of the Philippine Marine Corps clearing a building found an improvised explosive, according to the military spokesman.

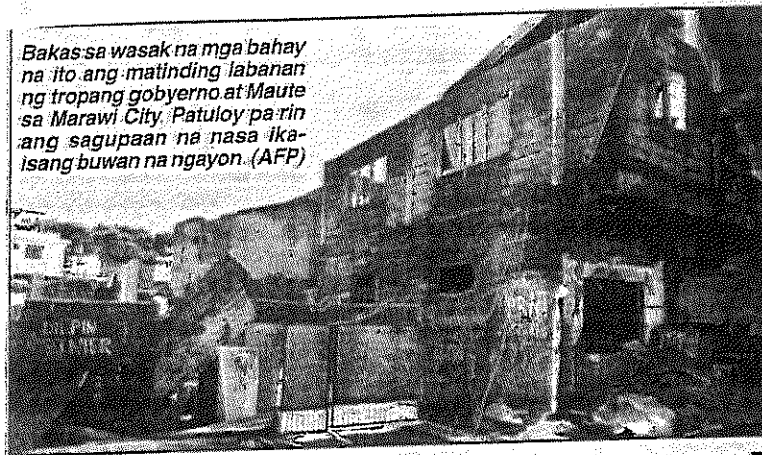
"So they tried to deal with that by trying to explode it remotely. When they did, it was followed by more than 12 or 10 gunshots from the other house as well," Padilla narrated.

"It is like a Judas' belt," he added, referring to the firecracker.

23 June 2017

**NGAYON**

Pahina. 2



*Bakas sa wasak na mga bahay na ito ang matinding labanan ng tropang gobyerno at Maute sa Marawi City. Patuloy pa rin ang sagupaan na nasa ika-Isang buwan na ngayon. (AFP)*

## **Martial Law malabong ma-extend**

Hindi pa sigurado kung mapapalawig ng Kongreso ang pagpapairal ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon, Senior vice-chairman ng House Defense Committee, ito ay kahit pa maigting pa rin ang bakbakan ng mga sundalo sa Marawi City na sinabayan pa ng pang-gugulo ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Cotabato.

Idinagdag pa ni Biazon na kailangang magkaroon

ng evaluation kung gaano kalawak na Martial Law powers ang nagamit sa unang 30-araw ng pagpapairal nito sa Mindanao.

Subalit kung lalabas umano na maliit lamang ang kinakailangang ML powers ay ordinaryong military action na lamang ang dapat na tuloy-tuloy na pakawalan ng gobyerno laban sa mga armadong grupo at terorista sa rehiyon.

Sa tingin pa ng kongresista, sa ganitong

sitwasyon ay walang pangangailangan para sa ekstensyon ng pagpapatupad ng Batas Militar.

Base sa Konstitusyon, ang pagpapalawig ng batas militar ay nararapat na idaan sa kongreso para paaprubahan.

Una ng sinabi ni Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez na pabor siyang patagalin ang Martial Law sa Mindanao hanggang sa matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Duterte. (Gemma Garcia)

23 June 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Marawi operations 'complicated': AFP

BY VICTOR REYES

AN exasperated Armed Forces yesterday told critics to join soldiers fighting aute Group members in Marawi City so they will understand the "complexity" of the armed conflict which is now a month old.

"It is easy to say why are we not finished yet, why are we not done with this yet. We'll if you want to know and understand, then come with us to the battlefield so that you will know the complexity of the battlefield," said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

"This is a very complicated engagement because it is urban terrain at its worst," he said of the crisis which has already led to the death of 276 Maute members, 67 soldiers, and policemen and 26 civilians.

The fighting broke out last May 23 when Maute members fought government forces out to arrest senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon during a raid on a terrorist safe house. The Maute and Abu Sayyaf are aligning themselves with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which has reportedly name Hapilon as its Southeast Asia head.

Padilla cited prolonged campaigns in the Middle East against the ISIS and Al Qaeda terror group in the past years, including the Battle of Mosul in Iraq which began October last year and is ongoing up to now.

"If you will compare (these) to this current and ongoing engagement (in Marawi), the terrain is very much the same. And we are doing this (operation) very carefully because we have compounding complex issues," he said.

Among the issues, he said, are the presence of civilians being held by the Maute members, the refusal of some residents to leave their houses in the conflict area, and improvised explosive devices laid by the enemy.

Asked if the operations will take longer, Padilla said: "There is possibility. What I am saying is that it is complex, it's not that easy. People are very impatient but they don't know the sacrifices of their soldiers."

Padilla said soldiers have to conduct clearing operations very carefully. He said the Marines re-

See MARAWI > Page B3

## MARAWI

covered an improvised explosive device (IED) in the conflict area over the weekend while clearing a building.

"They tried to deal with that by trying to explode it remotely. When it was remotely exploded, a series of 10 to 12 explosions occurred, up to a nearby residence. It's like 'judas belt' (a type of firecracker)," said Padilla.

"The sympathetic layout of the booby trap, IED, is that complex. If you are going to carelessly enter the area and trigger the bomb, the entire building will collapse. If you're wounded, you are not going to survive because of the collapsed building. The people should understand that," said Padilla.

### MAUTE MEN SLIPPING OUT

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesman of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said there are "a little over a hundred" Maute members still in the city. Officials earlier said the fighting is confined in four barangays.

Herrera said they have information that some of the Maute members have fled the city by blending with evacuees, leaving their firearms in the conflict zone.

"As their bailiwick native land, the terrorists are knowledgeable of the terrain here in Marawi City. They are also using that advantage to slip out of the area to escape. But the authorities assure that the combined strength of the security forces and other government agencies, these terrorists have nowhere to hide," said Herrera.

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Rey, commander of the Task Force Lanao, said the presence of IEDs is delaying the clearing operation.

"The Maute terrorists are pushed back in a corner due to the AFP's continuous effort. But they are using IEDs to block the government troops. They are also using hostages as human shields and slaves from gaining grounds," said Rey.

"Hostages were even being forced to place LPG tanks with fuel as IEDs against the AFP troops," he said.

Globe Telecom, in coordination with the AFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology, launched a 15-day free call and text promo for soldiers and other prepaid subscribers in Marawi City.

The promo -- good for Globe/TNT to Globe and TNT connection only -- can be extended if needed, said Globe president and chief executive officer Ernest Cu during the launching in Camp Aguinaldo.

"We thought it was an easy decision to make to open up the cell sites for call and text to everybody who is in the area," said Cu, adding the promo will allow soldiers and everybody "suffering and affected in Marawi" to call and text their loved ones.

Told that Maute members may also take advantage of the promo, Cu said: "I'm sure they came prepared. It is our Armed Forces who are unable to call."

"I'm sure they (Maute members) are communicating with each other already but there is no way for us to know who is there. As long as you are there (in Marawi), it's free," Cu said.

### FAMILY TENTS

The government has started buying "family-sized" tents to serve as temporary shelter of some 69,000 displaced families, Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguivala said.

She said each tent can hold up to eight persons, has windows for ventilation, and will serve as temporary shelter while a permanent housing is being constructed.

The 69,434 families (almost 340,000 persons) evacuated from Marawi City and Marantao town in Lanao del Sur.

The government has earmarked P662.5 million for the procurement of the tents along with other items like "Halal" food packs, hygiene kits, and other non-food items.

Israel donated P1 million worth of medical supplies to the Philippine Red Cross for the evacuees.

Sen. Richard Gordon, PRC chairman, thanked Israel Ambassador Effie Ben Matityao. The donation included assorted medicines and equipment. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor and Christian Oinera*

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**MARAWI CRISIS**

# AFP SAYS TERRORISTS CORNERED AS FIGHTING ENTERS FIFTH WEEK

**By Allan Nawal,  
Richel Umel, Nikko Dizon  
and Jeannette I. Andrade  
@Team\_Inquirer**

MARAWI CITY — Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorists holed up here have been cornered and their firepower is flagging, but the military cannot say when the crisis will end.

The battle for Marawi enters its fifth week on Friday with the 400-500 gunmen from the Maute terrorist group and their allies from the Abu Sayyaf bandit group who seized the city on May 23 just "a little more than 100" now, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, told reporters on Thursday.

"Their area has been reduced to 1 square kilometer," said Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, commander of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion.

Tampus' troops were blocking escape routes across bridges spanning a river to the west of the terrorists. "Our forces are coming from the east and the north and we are blocking the three bridges," he said.

## No deadline

But Herrera, in a talk with reporters on Wednesday, could not give a categorical answer to the question when the crisis would end.

"There is no timetable, there is no deadline. What we are doing is [making] sure that the city is safe again by clearing it of the terrorists," he said.

Herrera insisted that the terrorists' firepower was flagging, but Tampus on Thursday said his troops were having difficulty moving forward.

He said snipers were still firing from "strategic nests" in schools and mosques, and homemade bombs were hampering the progress of his troops as they advanced house to house.

Tampus said he had seen at least five civilians dressed in black who appeared to have been forced to stand in the street as human shields.

According to official estimates late on Wednesday,



more than 360 people have been killed during the month of hostilities—268 terrorists, 66 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians.

Army Vis

Four hundred Filipino soldiers have been wounded in the street-to-street gun battles.

#### Mautes still alive

In his talk with reporters on Wednesday, Herrera said many terrorists had been wounded in the fighting and that there was no confirmation of reports that the leaders of the Maute group—brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute—and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnail Hapilon, who had pledged allegiance to IS, had been killed.

"They are still in the area, based on our monitoring and reports we get," he said.

More than 300,000 residents have fled Marawi and outlying towns. More than 40,000 jam government-run evacuation centers in Iligan City in Lanao del Norte and the rest sheltering with relatives in the province and surrounding areas.

#### Civil war unlikely

On Tuesday, President Duterte spoke to reporters in Cagayan de Oro City of the importance of ending the conflict as soon as possible, warning that Christians could arm themselves against Muslims if the fighting spilled over to other parts of Mindanao.

But Gen. Eduardo Año, the military chief of staff, said on Thursday a civil war in Mindanao was unlikely.

Año said a civil war would happen only if the government allowed civilians to arm themselves.

#### Containing terrorists

He said the military and the Philippine National Police would "do their jobs to end the hostilities as soon as possible" to prevent the rise of communal unrest.

Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos, spokesperson for the PNP, told reporters orders had gone out to police commanders, particularly in Mindanao, to prevent the fighting in Marawi from spreading to other parts of the island.

"We are conducting check-

points and intelligence monitoring to prevent the Maute group from moving and carrying out terror acts elsewhere," Carlos said.

#### Residents weary

A month after the terrorists seized Marawi to establish an enclave for IS in southern Philippines and the military moved in to dislodge them, residents who stayed in the city and those who fled say they are weary.

"We want to live normal [lives] again," said Amna Batugan, 62, whose family did not leave Emie Punud village, less than 3 kilometers from the city center where the fighting is going on.

The village is located on elevated ground and a nearby Army outpost protects it from terrorist attack.

But bomb blasts and the noise of automatic gunfire keep the family on edge.

"How I wish it would end," Batugan said.

Hadji Kamid Solayman, 48, of Lilod village, said he and his family fled their home and sought refuge in a house owned by another family in Matampay village, which is near the headquarters of the 103rd Infantry Brigade.

"We thought it was safe here," he said.

#### Stray bullets

But the place is close to the battle zone and the house is frequently hit by stray bullets.

"We may have avoided getting killed in the crossfire but we might be killed by stray bullets," Solayman said. "When will this war end?"

Soraida Bato, 45, a mother of four, took her family and fled Lilod, seeking refuge in Matampay.

But like the Solaymans, her family, she said, is "living in fear because of the explosions, the gunfire and the stray bullets."

She wished the fighting would end so she and her family could go home.

"It doesn't matter to me if I don't have a house to return to because we can easily build a new one," she said. "We're weary." INQ

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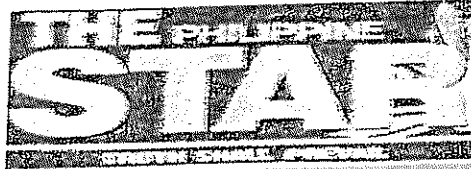
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# Maute fighters abandoning arms, blending with civilians

By JAIME LAUDE

The Islamic State-inspired Maute group of extremists are abandoning their weapons and blending in with the civilian evacuees to escape Marawi City, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman of Joint Task Force Marawi, said the militants are getting desperate to avoid government forces closing in on what remains of their stronghold.

"After the series of arrests of alleged Maute terrorists, including the parents of the Maute brothers who led the attack in Marawi City, hopeless terrorists have chosen to abandon their firearms and blend with the civilian evacuees who are escaping from ground zero," Herrera said.

He added the militants are using their familiarity of the terrain to their advantage in slipping out from the area of operations.

Security forces, however, are well aware of the tactic and have formed a defensive ring around the area where the militants are holding out to prevent their escape.

"The authorities assure the people that with the combined strength of the security forces and other government agencies, these terrorists have nowhere to hide," Herrera said.

Sporadic clashes have been ongoing in Marawi City since May 23 after the Maute group attacked the city, prompting President Duterte to put the entire Mindanao under martial law.

Herrera said the number of militants fighting the government troops in Marawi is dwindling.

"According to information we are getting from the ground troops operating in the area, there are more or less 100 members of the Maute terrorist group left," he said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Lt. Colonel Christopher Tampus said the militants have been confined to an area of a square kilometer.

Tampus, who is leading the troops supporting the assault on the remaining strongholds of the rebels, said they are blocking escape routes across bridges spanning a river to the west of the militants.

"Our forces are coming from the east and the north and we are blocking the three bridges," he said.

Tampus told reporters the militants were still using snipers firing from "strategic nests" in schools and mosques and placing homemade bombs to hamper the progress of troops as they advance house to house.

Snipers, armed with powerful .50-caliber Barrett rifles, also targeted journalists who are in the "safe zones."

Tampus said he had seen at least five civilians dressed in black who appeared to have been forced to stand in the street as human shields.

According to the latest official estimates, 369 people have been killed during the month-long hostilities, three-quarters of them militants. The number of security forces and civilians killed stood at 67 and 26, respectively.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla explained the fighting is still continuing because the soldiers have to deal with various challenges.

"This is a very complicated engagement because it's an urban terrain at its worst," Padilla said.

Asked if the fighting may drag on further, Padilla said there is always the possibility of a protracted war against the terrorists.

While the military is busy dealing with the terrorists, concerned sectors opened up their operations free for Marawi residents.

Globe telecommunications opened its mobile services in Marawi City for free to enable soldiers and civilians to contact their families.

There are around 300 to 500 residents still trapped in the battle zone without any contact with the outside world, as well as thousands of soldiers deployed in the area to flush out the Maute terrorists.

- With Reuters

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## Maute terrorists blending with civilians fleeing Marawi – AFP

**Mario J. Mallari,  
Jus N. Leonen  
and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora**

The military yesterday said some Islamic State-inspired terrorists are now trying to escape Marawi City by disguising themselves as among trapped civilians wanting to get out of the “war zone” as government military forces continued to flush out the enemies who are still putting up pockets of resistance in a small portion of the Islamic City.

“According to the information we are getting from the ground troops, there are more or less 100 members of Maute terrorist group left after one month battle here in Marawi,” Lt. Col. Jo-ale Murrera, spokesman of the military’s Joint Task Force Marawi said.

“The terrorists are knowledgeable of the terrain here in Marawi City. They are also using that advantage to slip out of the area to escape,” he added.

In the fourth week of the conflict which started May 23, a total of 258 Maute terrorists have been killed along with 85 troops and police officers along with 26 civilians.

Also, four out of the 96 barangays of Marawi City are still considered “problematic areas” where the terrorists continued to set up pockets of resistance and hold hostages as human shields.

For weeks now, the terrorists have resorted to sniping and burning down structures to resist advancing government forces.

**Turn to page 3**

**From page 1**

The military said the terrorists are also planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks, inside residential structures – targeting troops conducting house-to-house clearing operations.

**‘Very careful’**

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Eduardo Año, for his part, stressed the military is very careful and deliberate to spare the lives of innocent civilians during the operations against the terrorists.

“We want to minimize the destruction of properties and we want to save lives of civilians. If we will assault and do bombings

indiscriminately, it would be easy...but there are trapped civilians," he said.

"Methodical, deliberate and carefully (we conduct) house to house, building by building, floor by floor (clearing operations). It's precise...we don't bomb buildings with civilians," he stressed.

"When we say clearing operations, it does not only involved flushing the remaining Maute Group members, this includes removal of IEDs, landmines, and unexploded ordnance. This will take a while to ensure that no injury nor death will be inflicted to returning civilians," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

He declined to give an exact time line in neutralizing the remaining Maute Group

terrorists but stressed this will not take much more time.

Año has already directed military engineers to prepare for the rehabilitation of Marawi City immediately after the area is cleared.

"The AFP chief of staff has directed the mobilization of engineering units in preparation for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding of Marawi as soon as the conflict is over," said Padilla.

He added at least two battalions of engineering units would be tasked to rebuild Marawi City.

#### Commitment vs terrorism

Malacañang, meanwhile, said the phone call between President Rodrigo Duterte and Indonesian President Joko Widodo

reaffirmed their commitment to fight the rising threat of terrorism and violent extremism in the region.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the two leaders had a "productive and fruitful" phone conversation Wednesday night as they vowed to further strengthen ties in the fight against terrorism.

"They both reaffirmed the need to step up operation to address threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism," Abella told a Palace briefing.

He added the Indonesian leader also vowed his continuing support for a lasting peace in Mindanao peace process.

"And Widodo also reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to support the

Philippines in countering terrorism, including restoring peace and stability in the southern Philippines," Abella said.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi yesterday said Jakarta stands ready to provide financial aid to the Philippine government in assisting the war-stricken Marawi City.

"We observe closely the development in Marawi City. Indonesia strongly condemn the terror attack," she during the opening of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines' trilateral meeting on extremism.

"On behalf of the government of Indonesia, I'd like to express our sympathy and condolences especially to the families of innocents, police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

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Pahina. 2

## Mahigit 100 Maute-ISIS nakatakas na sa Marawi

Nasa mahigit kumulang sa 100 miyembro ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ang nakatakas na sa battle zone matapos na magpanggap na mga sibilyang evacuees kaugnay ng krisis sa Marawi City na pumalo na kahapon sa 30 araw o isang buwan.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Joar Herrera, Spokesman ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi at 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divi-

sion (ID) sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 100 na lamang Maute-ISIS ang target ng kanilang operasyon sa lungsod.

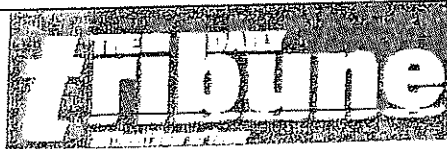
Anya, nakatanggap sila ng impormasyon na nagawang makatakas ng mga terorista sa battle zone matapos ang mga itong humalo at magpanggap na mga evacuees gayundin sa mga na-trap na sibilyan na inabandona na ang kanilang mga armas.

Sa kasalukuyan, ayon

kay Herrera, simula nang sumiklab ang bakbakan noong Mayo 23 ay nasa 276 ng Maute-ISIS terrorists ang napatay at 26 ang sibilyan.

Ayon sa opisyal, 67 naman ang mga bayaning security forces na nagbuwis ng buhay habang nasa 461 ang nasugatan. Naitala naman sa 1, 658 mga sibilyan na na-hostage at na-trap sa bakbakan ang nailigtas. *Joy Cantos*

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# Lawyers' group cites reports of 'military abuses' in Marawi

By Julius N. Leonen

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Lanao del Sur-Marawi City Chapter slammed the military and police stationed in Marawi City for alleged abuses of authority in the area, among them looting, unauthorized intrusions and illegal seizures.

In a statement, the IBP Lanao del Sur Chapter said it expresses "severe outrage and condemnation over illegal searches and seizures in Marawi City by military men, police, and other law enforcement agencies."

While the group said it has been supportive of President Duterte's martial law declaration, it maintained "it has not closed its eyes on any forms of abuses committed in the implementation thereof."

"The IBP-Lanao del Sur Chapter has been utterly shocked, to use a milder term, by sheer magnitude of wanton disregard of sanctity of domicile, the right against deprivation of property without due process of law," the group said.

The lawyers' group, citing numerous reports, lamented the illegal searches and seizures that have caused "rampant loss of valuable personal belongings of innocent and helpless civilians has been reported."

The IBP chapter bared that "residential and commercial establishments have been laid open to looters all over the besieged city."

"The remnants of ransacked residential and commercial establishments bear imprints of gruesome acts of blatant violations of laws," it stated.

The IBP likened the alleged "wholesale illegal

searches and seizures" to the martial rule under former president and late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, saying it is "unparalleled in its magnitude for even the Marcos years of martial rule pales in comparison."

The IBP said the forced entries were done "without the presence of the media, the owners or any authorized persons" with the police and military showing "total disregard of plain view doctrine of searches and seizures activities."

"As shown in video footages and pictures posted in social media, military men who committed these criminal acts in public exhibited no remorse," the statement read.

"And yet, no one raises a voice of dissent," the group lamented.

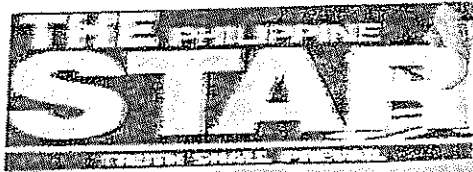
The IBP expressed alarm over the "deafening silence" in Congress, other government agencies, and the media as it may be construed "as an implied approval of unspeakable acts of bestiality."

In turn, the group called on Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, to "immediately stop searches and seizures without court warrants."

The group also asked Lorenzana to "create a credible multi-agency investigation committee composed of independent groups and individuals to avoid whitewash and ensure impartial findings and swift prosecution."

"If, in the remotest possibility, this urgent plea falls on deaf ears, the IBP-Lanao del Sur Chapter will not hesitate to take appropriate legal action," the group warned.

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# Cops, soldiers accused of illegal search, looting in Marawi

By EDU PUNAY

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) chapter in Lanao del Sur has slammed the military and police units implementing martial law in Marawi City for alleged illegal searches and seizure and looting of civilian properties in the war-torn city.

In a three-page statement submitted to the Supreme Court by petitioners against President Duterte's martial law proclamation in Mindanao, the IBP chapter accused the military and the police of committing crimes while implementing martial law and

fighting Maute terrorists

Because of this, the IBP chapter called on martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to immediately stop searches and seizures without court warrants.

While the group said that they support the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, it stressed that it "has not closed its eyes on any forms of abuses committed in the implementation thereof."

The chapter warned of taking legal actions should the security forces fail to act on this issue.

The local lawyers' group

lawyers in Lanao del Sur to file cases if they have evidence that some state security forces have ransacked properties during clearing operations in Marawi City.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Dionardo Carlos said it would be better for the IBP Lanao del Sur chapter to file charges instead of just floating accusations.

"No abuses should happen. If they are making accusations that some of our policemen and soldiers are involved, they should file the appropriate charges," Carlos said in a press briefing in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Carlos insisted they would never tolerate abuses such as looting being committed by either by soldiers or policemen.

"We hope they would back it up with evidence," he said.

He told the lawyers who made the accusations to look at the atrocities committed by members of the Maute terror group in Marawi.

The lawyers lamented the "rampant loss of valuable personal belongings of innocent and helpless civilians" as a result of the alleged "wholesale illegal searches and seizures, unparalleled in its magnitude for even the Marcos years of martial rule pale in comparison."

The IBP chapter said it has received numerous reports of forced entries of private residential and commercial establishments without search

expressed "severe outrage and condemnation over illegal searches and seizures in Marawi City by military men, police and other law enforcement agencies which result in rampant loss and deprivation of properties and possessions of innocent civilians."

"As shown in video footages and pictures posted in social media, military men who committed these criminal acts in public exhibited no remorse," alleged the statement signed by IBP chapter president Aminoden Macalandap.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday dared

warrants, even though these places bore no badge of suspicion of having links with the Maute terrorist group.

It claimed that forced entries were done "without the presence of the media, the owners or any authorized persons," with the police and military showing "total disregard of plain view doctrine of searches and seizures activities."

"And yet, no one raises a voice of dissent," it stressed.

Militant groups will stage a Black Friday protest today to condemn the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

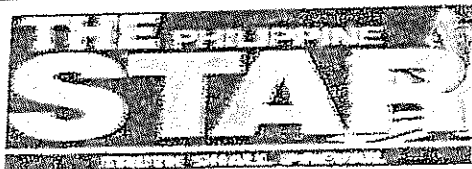
Members of BAYAN and Anakbayan in Metro Manila are set to gather at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila before marching to Mendiola Bridge where they will hold the protest action.

– With Emmanuel Tupas, Mayen Jaymalin

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## Rebellion charges filed vs 3 Maute suspects

The three reported members of the Maute terror group arrested by the Philippine Coast Guard in Iloilo Sunday were charged with rebellion before the prosecutor's office yesterday.

Suspects Faridah Romato of Carmen in Cagayan de Oro, Aljadid Romato of Iligan City and Abdulralman Sevad of Marantao in Lanao del Sur were presented before the Department of Justice (DOJ) special panel of prosecutors for inquest proceedings held inside Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City. Inquest is an informal and summary investigation done by a public prosecutor on persons arrested and detained without a warrant.

Most of the arrested Maute terrorist group members are currently detained at Camp Evangelista pending the approval of the DOJ's petition before the Supreme Court (SC) to have them transferred to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

After inquest, prosecutors are expected to issue a resolution and file a case against the three before the Cagayan de Oro regional trial court tapped by the SC to hear the cases against them.

The three were arrested while on board 2Go's passenger ship *M/V St. Therese of the Child Jesus* in Iloilo City. The ship came from Cagayan de Oro and was en route to Manila.

The DOJ has indicted several other arrested members

and supporters of Maute, including Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato Maute, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers who led the group behind the attack in Marawi City last May 23.

Also charged with rebellion before the Cagayan de Oro RTC were former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic and Mohamad Maute, alias Abu Jadid, alleged bomb maker of Maute Group who was arrested in Cagayan de Oro last week.

In Pagadian City, policemen arrested two suspected medics of the Abu Sayyaf group while buying in bulk medicine that included antibiotics, anti-bacterial, pain relievers and other post-traumatic medications at a local pharmacy Wednesday morning.

Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, police Region 9 director, identified the two as Jadzrie Saabdula, 50, a nurse assigned at the Tongkil Municipal Hospital, and Jamal Kalib Jamil, 18, a fisherman. Both are natives of Sulu.

He said initial investigation showed that Saabdula is the brother of slain Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group commander Nadjmi Saabdula, alias Kumander Global, who was captured along with another leader, Ghalib Andang alias Commander Robot. The two leaders were among the detainees killed during a botched jailbreak from a government camp in Bicutan in March 2005.

– Edu Punay, Roel Pareño, Lino dela Cruz

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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### 3 alleged Maute members undergo inquest

THREE suspected members of the Maute terrorist group arrested in Iloilo City last Sunday underwent inquest proceedings yesterday in Cagayan de Oro, the Department of Justice said.

Farida Pangimpig Romato, Aljahid Pangimpig Romato alias Hadid and Abdulrahman Serad Dimakatuh underwent the proceeding for rebellion charges inside Camp Evangelista, the headquarters of the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

Camp Evangelista has been designated by the Supreme Court as the venue for the trial and detention of the arrested Maute members and their supporters although Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre has asked the high court for a transfer to Taguig City.

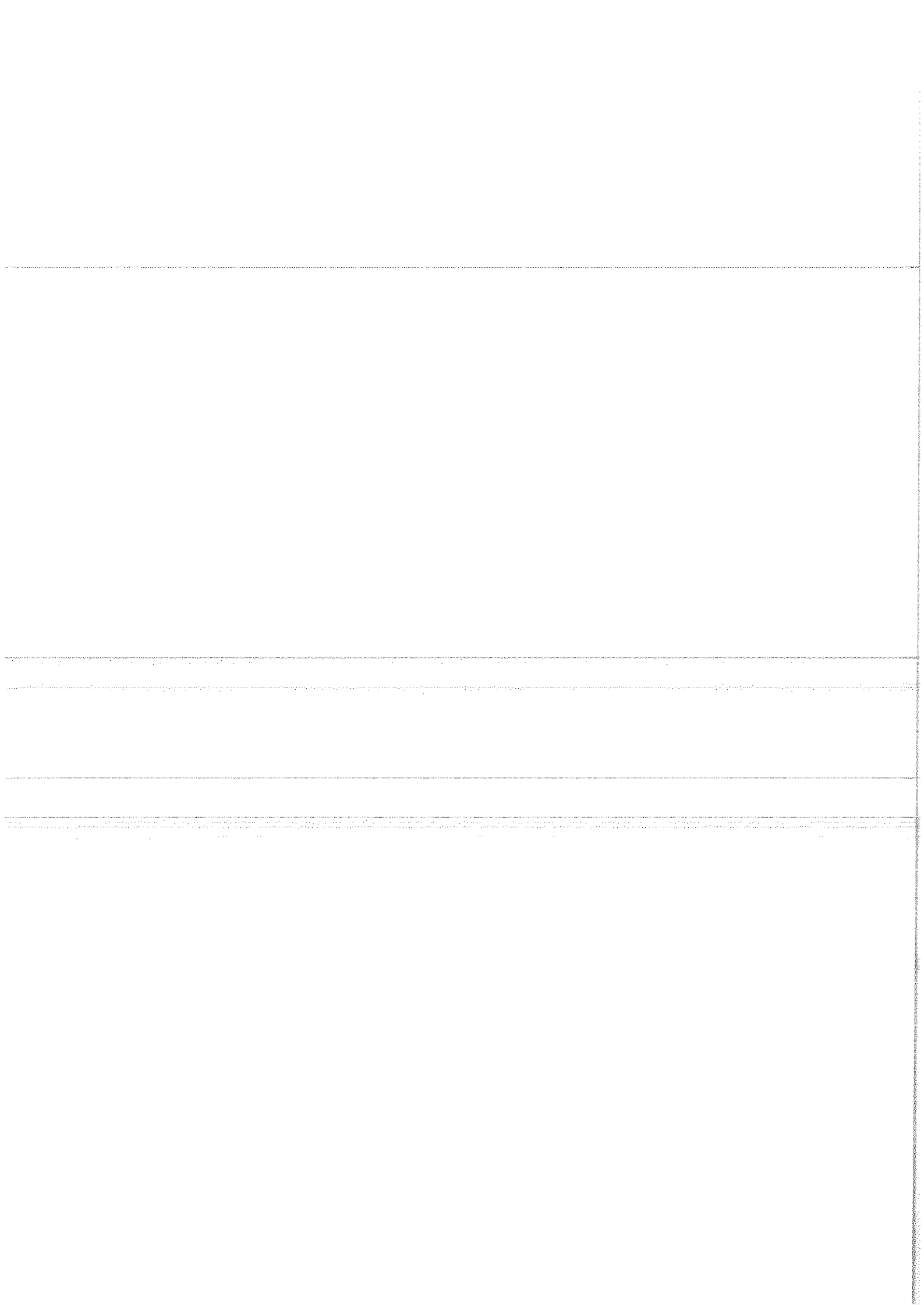
The SC has yet to act on Aguirre's request.

An inquest is a summary investigation conducted by a prosecutor on a person or persons arrested and de-

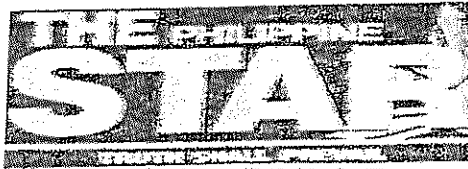
tained without the benefit of a warrant of arrest, to determine whether evidence is sufficient for the prosecutor to seek the approval of the court to keep the person or persons in detention.

The three were apprehended while on the way to Manila when the 2Go vessel they were in stopped at the port of Iloilo.

Authorities said Farida was in charge of the logistics of the Maute group. – Ashzel Hachero



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## 'Marawi siege a magnet for foreign fighters'

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

With the ongoing crisis in Marawi City, the Philippines might become a "magnet" for Islamic State (IS) militants fleeing allied offensives in Mosul in Iraq, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said yesterday.

He said there are indications foreign fighters are attempting to come to the country to help like-minded militants, particularly those battling government troops in Marawi City.

"Yes, that's what we're carefully watching because efforts of the allied forces are turning out well, and they are forecasting an IS defeat in six

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## Marawi From Page 1

months," Año said.

"So we expect those displaced to go to Asia and because of the Marawi crisis, the Philippines might serve as a magnet. And we really have to be on guard," he told reporters on the sidelines of the trilateral meeting on security among officials of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia at the Conrad Hotel in Pasay City.

Mosul used to be the center of the IS stronghold in Iraq. The historic district and a tiny area to its north are the only parts of the city still under the militants' control.

The AFP chief said his men have monitored about 40 foreign fighters, including 20 Indonesians and six Malaysians, in Mindanao.

"Out of the 40, more or less half

of them are scattered all around (Mindanao) but the others might be dead already, so we can't validate properly because we did not recover bodies," he explained.

On reports that 1,200 Indonesian fighters have joined the Marawi battle, he said the number could include members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

"They all think they're IS, but in our eyes they're not - they're local," Año stressed.

And although they have pledged allegiance to IS, they are "not 100 percent ISIS," he pointed out.

He also said Abu Sayyaf group senior leader Isnilon Hapilon might still be alive, but not local terrorist leader Omar Maute.

A YouTube video post in July 2014 showed Hapilon swearing

allegiance to ISIS.

Hapilon was reportedly designated leader of the IS Southeast Asia cell last year but his links to terror groups had long been established.

A military airstrike in Marawi City reportedly killed Omar Maute.

"Hapilon is still inside (Marawi), that's why the militants remain defiant. But Omar Maute more or less appeared to be already dead," Año said.

He added it would be difficult to give soldiers a deadline for ending the Marawi siege as it might give them undue pressure and ultimately undermine the campaign to liberate the city.

On Wednesday, the military cleared at least 56 buildings but one soldier was killed in the process.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADER

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## Gov't to use Pagcor funds to rebuild Marawi; 'tent city' to rise for homeless

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The government intends to use Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) funds to bankroll the ₱20-billion massive rehabilitation program for war-torn Marawi City and build a "tent city" as temporary shelter for the displaced residents.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the first half of the rebuilding funds will be sourced from the state-owned gaming corporation. ►15

"Where to get the ₱20-billion Marawi fund? DBM (Department of Budget and Management) Secretary (Benjamin) Diokno said that the first ₱10 billion would come from Pagcor," Abella said in a Palace news conference.

"We assume that the next ₱10 billion may also come from the same source, just an assumption," he said.

Duterte has promised to rebuild Marawi City and help the homeless residents recover from the conflict.

He said at least ₱20 billion would be set aside the rehabilitation of the war-ravaged city. The amount is twice the ₱10-billion budget originally proposed in the draft executive order on the "Bangon Marawi" rehabilitation program.

Asked if the "Bangon Marawi" order has been signed by the President, Abella said there was no update yet from the Office of the Executive Secretary about the matter.

### Tent city

A tent city for the homeless residents may soon rise in Marawi City once the armed conflict is over, according to Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo.

She said the government intends to hasten the acquisition of tents for distribution to thousands of families displaced by the rebellion in Marawi City.

Instead of giving away money for emergency shelter, Taguiwalo proposed that family-sized tents could be used as temporary shelter of the Marawi residents while the rebuilding of the conflict-torn Marawi City is being implemented.

"We are procuring now family-sized tents. As a

procurement three weeks ago in preparation for the return of our evacuees to Marawi City and we hope to provide individual tent per family," she said in a Palace news conference.

"This can be immediately used rather than the emergency shelter assistance where you have to wait for the validation, etc. before you can have it so that's the plan," she said.

Taguiwalo said each tent can accommodate eight persons and has windows similar to an ordinary house.

"While the physical construction of the city is ongoing, they have a place to stay. They can stay at least in the tents," she said.

The tent procurement, however, suffered some problems after a failure of bidding last Wednesday, according to Taguiwalo.

To hasten the tent acquisition, the DSWD suggested that procurement procedures be made less stringent amid the "emergency" situation.

### Free text from Globe

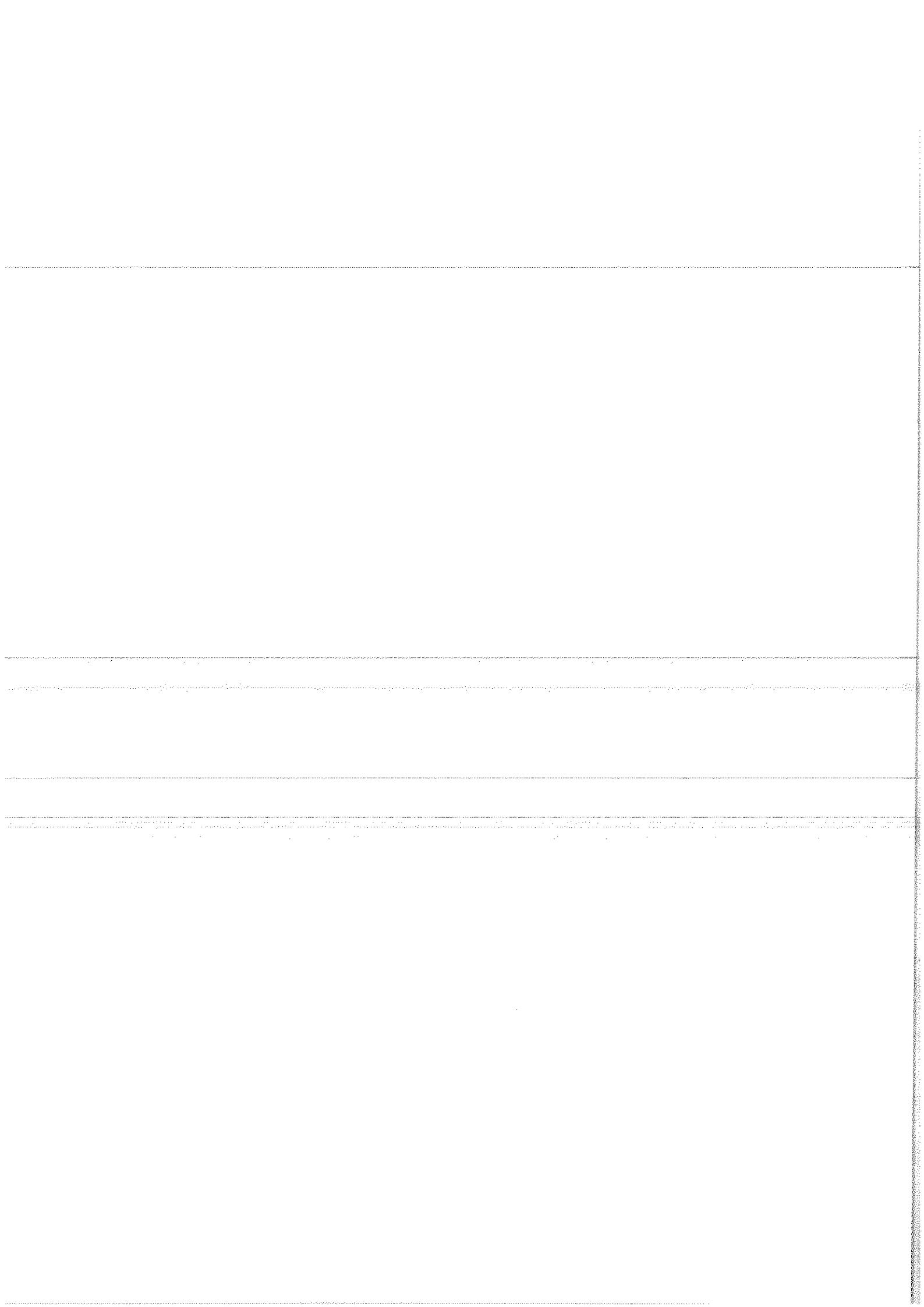
Meanwhile, to help residents and soldiers to contact their families, the Globe network will provide 15 days of free text to all networks and calls to Globe and TM to its customers in Marawi City starting yesterday, June 22.

The effort to provide communication links is the result of a partnership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and Globe Telecom.

At present, some 300 to 500 Marawi residents are still trapped in the battle zone without any contact to the outside world, while government troops continue to risk their lives in the month-long fight against the Maute terrorist group.

"We would like to thank the DICT led by Secretary Rodolfo A Salalima and Globe Telecom for affording us this avenue for our embattled soldiers in Marawi to maintain communication lines with their families and loved ones during this critical time as they defend the republic against lawless elements," said Major General Jose Tanjuan Jr., J6, the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics and Information Systems.

Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said that Globe and TM prepaid customers in Marawi City will receive a text message from Globe and TM within the next few days to inform them about the



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# Tent city for Marawi evacuees

By **Leila B. Salaverria**  
@LeilasINQ

Tents big enough for eight people would be the temporary houses of families displaced by the war in Marawi while the city is being rebuilt, according to Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Taguiwalo said, had started the process of procuring tents for each of the 69,434 families displaced by the fighting in Marawi and currently staying in evacuation centers.

Taguiwalo said her department had allotted at least P622.5 million for Marawi residents who fled the city.

The money would be spent not only on food but also hygiene kits and other basic ne-

cessities, she said.

Taguiwalo said the tents, aside from having space for eight individuals, would have windows.

She said the DSWD was trying to speed up the bidding process after an initial bidding failed.

## Immediate use

The use of tents, said Taguiwalo in a briefing in Malacañang, would reduce the waiting time for families to have temporary shelters as the tents "can be immediately used."

She said her department would do away with "emergency shelter assistance where you have to wait for validation, etcetera, before you have it."

She was referring to the program implemented by her predecessor which gave cash to Su-

pertyphoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) survivors to either repair homes or build new ones. The program, however, became controversial when many survivors complained of being disqualified as beneficiaries because of red tape.

Taguiwalo said groups or individuals who wanted to help in Marawi could consider donating tents.

The reconstruction of Marawi, covered by a P20-billion fund expected from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., was expected to take at least six months.

The number of people in evacuation centers is just about 5 percent of all the displaced residents of Marawi, said Taguiwalo. The rest had found shelter, usually in relatives'

houses in different provinces, she said.

She said she didn't expect the displaced residents to rely solely on aid as some, who had found shelter in Dumaguete City, had already sought DSWD help to find jobs and not depend on the government.

The DSWD was preparing a livelihood seminar and checking which jobs could be offered to the displaced Marawi residents, said Taguiwalo.

The National Economic and Development Authority was in charge of helping evacuees find livelihood sources with the help of other government agencies, she said.

Families that would be allowed back to Marawi would get P4,000 each to help them start anew. INQ

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## AFP to send Bicol soldiers to Marawi

CAMP ELIAS Angeles, Pili, Camarines Sur — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will send another battalion from the 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army based in Bicol to help government troopers battling Maute terror group in Marawi City.

According to Lt. Col. Omar Orozco of the 9th Infantry Division, the 2nd Infantry Battalion under the 903rd Infantry Brigade, a battle-tested unit against communist rebels in Milagros, Masbate will be deployed to Marawi City this month.

Orozco said the 9th Infantry Division has sent at least three battalions now fighting against the terror group since the Marawi City crisis broke out last May.

He said among the Bicol army battalions fighting in Marawi were the 49th Infantry Battalion, the 65th IB and another army battalion, who were sent to Mindanao since last year on the orders by President Rodrigo Duterte to strengthen the AFP's forces in Mindanao.

He said the 9th ID has adequate force in the island province of Masbate, where rebels have threatened to retaliate after the surrender of 19 young rebels in Milagros town last week.

**Sonny Sales**



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INQUIRER

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# Text message from Marawi: 'I can't go out'

MARAWI CITY—Trapped in a war zone, Camalia Baunto's husband, Nixon, had been trying for weeks to stay alive as Islamic State-linked terrorists and government forces battled for control of this city.

With the fighting raging around him, Nixon texted and called throughout until just over a week ago when the messages stopped abruptly, leaving his wife praying that it was just his cell phone battery that had died.

"I'm OK, but I can't go out. The house is safe," the 51-year-old hardware store owner had told his wife in a message from their home inside the city.

He heard gunfire in the street, he wrote, and hid from black-clad fighters who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria and have occupied the city's commercial district for a month.

## Messages stopped

On June 14, at 9:59 a.m., Nixon texted to ask Camalia to buy him more credit for his phone, which she did.

He said he had bruises and scratches that he got from evading capture by the terrorists. There was rice at home, but water had become a problem.

"He said he would just collect rainwater to drink," Camalia said.

Then the messages stopped, and his phone stopped ringing.

"I've had sleepless nights since then," Camalia, 42, told Reuters at Marawi's government compound, where she has been sleeping in a mosque while awaiting word of her husband.

## 300-500 still trapped

The couple and their children were out of town when fighting erupted in Marawi on May 23, but Nixon went in the next day to check on their home and got trapped. Like most of the city's residents, the family is Muslim.

Officials estimate 300 to 500 people are still trapped inside Marawi, fearful of terrorists accused of using civilians as human shields as much as of government airstrikes and starvation.

Some families have sent messages saying they have resorted to eating blankets or

cardboard dipped in water to keep hunger at bay.

The military has said it is in the final stages of its operation to oust the terrorists, whose ranks contain local militants and foreign, battle-hardened fighters from the IS campaigns in Syria and Iraq.

### Tough resistance

The fighters have put up tough resistance, exploiting the city's narrow streets, thick concrete walls and basements, and harassing troops with sniper fire and Molotov cocktails.

Military aircraft—with technical assistance from US Special Forces—have pummeled the city with 225-kilo bombs, raising fears about the safety of civilians unable to get out.

In the early stages of the conflict, many people were texting and calling in their whereabouts.

Their best hope of getting out lies with a "peace corridor" initiative of President Duterte.

The initiative is being carried out by Philippine Army officers and their former adversaries, fighters from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which signed a peace deal with the government in 2014.

The team says it has helped to evacuate 270 people since it was set up on June 4. It has also delivered supplies to those who remain behind.

Others have escaped by making their own way across the city, dodging sniper fire, to cross the Bangolo bridge over the Agus River and reach the government-controlled area.

### Batteries run down

But there is no power and water in the city. Phone batteries have now largely run down and the team has no way to contact most of those inside, including Nixon Baunto.

Nixon had used two phones, Camalia said, and the power must have run out in both.

Families visiting the evacuation team's office on Wednesday provided 15 new names of loved ones they say are trapped in the city, according to Wendell Orbeso, a director at the Office of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Later, the team received a text saying 10 or more people were hiding out in a grocery store.

"We don't exactly know

how many people are still there," Orbeso told Reuters at government building now mostly used to house evacuees.

The locations of the beleaguered civilians are passed to military commanders in the hope that soldiers can rescue them.

After flushing terrorists from the city's neighborhoods, troops have moved house-to-house, watching out for booby traps that include cooking gas cylinders rigged to explode, Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel Rey, commander of the military's Task Force Ranao, told reporters in Marawi on Wednesday.

### Eid al-Fitr

Camalia has been told the Army is close to clearing the terrorists from the area around her home, she said.

Nixon was too scared to leave the house, she said. He believed he would likely be captured by the militants or mistaken for a fighter and shot by the military, he told her.

He had survived by collecting and drinking rainwater.

Earlier in the siege, Nixon ventured out to a mosque, where he reported seeing more than 100 civilians sheltering, including women and children nursing gunshot wounds, he told his wife.

"He could not take the shooting, the bombing and the fear of stray bullets," she said, so he returned home, further from the epicenter of the battle.

"Why can't they rescue my husband? There are already hundreds of troops in Marawi. The military can go in and take him," she said.

"If we wait longer for the Army to do a house-to-house search, it may get too late. We may not get him alive. He's been trapped for a month. No matter how strong you are, your health will fail in this situation. Have pity on me," she said.

"I pray to Allah every day, every night, every hour for this war to end so my family can be reunited," Camalia said, wiping tears from her eyes.

She was desperate to have her husband back for the Eid al-Fitr festival this weekend, she said. "If he's not back, I have no interest in celebrating." —REUTERS WITH JASON

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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CASH, JOBS AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

# RIEVE POURS IN FOR KIN OF SOLDIERS, COPS KILLED IN MARAWI

LAOAG CITY—Army corporal, Oliver Macling Anno, was looking forward to a visit to Palimuyod town in Ilocos Sur province to see his daughter, Charm Emerald.

But he was sent on a mission to Marawi City on May 23 and was killed in a battle with terrorists. Anno was one of the first casualties when government troops, who were sent to capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, ended up fighting members of the Maute group. This led to the bloody siege that prompted President Duterte to declare martial law over Mindanao.

When Charm Emerald celebrated her first birthday on May 27, Anno had died from a bullet wound from Maute fighters. He was buried on June 8.

On June 17, Anno's widow, Charm, and her family were invited to this city to receive a P50,000 donation from the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AMWSLAI) of the Philippine Air Force and from Hannah's Beach Resort and Convention Center.

"He was a very thoughtful husband and father," Carmi said. "Whenever he had time, especially when there were family gatherings, he would send a text message or make a call just to greet us. He asked us to buy our daughter a new dress for her first birthday."



Soldiers honor Pfc. Reymart Carloto, one of the slain soldiers in Marawi City, as his remains arrive in Legazpi City early this month. —MARK ALVIC ESPLANA

Anno's father, Teodoro, and his younger sister accompanied Carmi to Laoag. "He was too young to die but I'm proud of my son. He's a hero as he offered his life for our country," Teodoro said.

He said Anno dreamed of becoming a doctor but he joined the Army instead.

Carmi said she was still in shock but added that she had to remain strong for their daughter.

"I hope the battle would soon end so no more lives are needlessly lost," she said.

"When a soldier goes to war, one foot is already in the grave.

He is lucky if he returns home alive. That is why we should respect and do not take them for granted, particularly in times of war," said retired Air Force Col. Ricardo Nolasco Jr., AMWSLAI chair and president.

Anno is the sixth beneficiary of cash donations from AMWSLAI and Hannah's Resort. The families of the slain soldiers were also given P500,000 each as education assistance.

As part of AMWSLAI's mandate, a general fund has been allocated for the college scholarship of soldiers' children. Since the program was launched, about

200 beneficiaries had graduated from college, Nolasco said.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has also asked other government agencies to help employ qualified dependents of soldiers and policemen killed or wounded in operations against terrorists in Marawi.

DILG officer in charge Catalino Cuy said his department was preparing to accommodate as many of the 261 beneficiaries as possible.

Of this number, 196 are dependents of Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel while

65 are from the Philippine National Police.

"We are doing the rounds to assist the families and we need all the help that we can get. This is the least that we can do to the families of our heroes," Cuy said.

Some P28.2 million will be needed to fund the salaries of 261 beneficiaries for six months at P18,000 monthly for each dependent, he said.

Last month the DILG asked for a subsidy of P3.5 million from the Department of Budget Management to pay for the salary of 21 dependents that the agency employed.

The Department of Trade and Industry has pledged to enlist small and medium enterprises in hiring some of the spouses and widows of soldiers and policemen while the Department of Labor and Employment has offered employment programs, through the Public Employment Service Office or the government internship program, to help dependents get jobs.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas provides financial literacy courses to the dependents and has expressed willingness to employ some of them as security personnel provided they are graduates of four-year college courses or are licensed professionals. --RE-

PORTS FROM LEILANIE ADRIANO AND JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ

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**POLICE FILES**

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### **371 na patay sa bakbakan sa Marawi**

**NAAGAW** ng government troops ang masa 16 na high-rise buildings na dating ino-okupahan ng ISIS-Maute group sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. Ito ay matapos inilunsad ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas ang pinagsabay na surgical airstrike at ground troops attack sa lokasyon ng mga terorista.

Sinabi ni 1st ID, Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col Jo-ar Herrera na napabagsak rin ng kanilang tropa ang ilang ginamit na drones ng mga terorista habang naganap ang engkuwentro.

Inilalarin ni Herrera na nasa 268 na teroristang ISIS-Maute na ang nasawi kasama ang kanilang 275 powered firearms.

Naitala rin ang 66 na government forces na nasawi habang 461 na mga sundalo na ang nasugatan simula nang sumiklab ang pangugulo ng mga terorista sa Marawi City.

Inihayag rin ng 1st ID, Philippine Army na nasa 37 sibilyan ang nasawi kung saan 26 sa mga ito ang brutal na pinapatay ng mga terorista.

Nanatiling nakapokus ang ground at aerial assaults ng government forces sa mga barangay ng Bangolo, Lilod, Raya Madaya 1 at Marinoot na ikino-konsidera na commercial hubs ng Marawi City.

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The Manila Times

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## CIVIL WAR FAR FROM HAPPENING – AFP CHIEF

A CIVIL war in the Philippines is far from happening but should Christians start to fight Muslims, it will be difficult to stop it. Armed Forces chief Eduardo Año said on Thursday.

He was reacting to the warning of President Rodrigo Duterte that

a civil war may erupt if Christians start arming themselves to fight extremists.

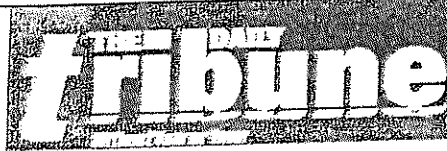
In an interview during the necrological rites for military Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak late Wednesday, Año said if such a conflict breaks, it will not be prevented

immediately.

“His (Duterte) warning will take a long time before it happen, but of course, some civilians, especially Christians in the Muslim areas, they wanted to arm themselves to defend themselves,” he told reporters.

“But if the President approve of that, you cannot prevent fights of clans, of barangay (villages). That is what we call civil war. But it is far from happening,” Año said, adding that the military and police will step in to nip such conflict in the bud. **DEMPSEY REYES**

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**Clearing up ops** An Army trooper walks past graffiti on a concrete fence near the frontline in Marawi City as fighting between government troops and Islamist militants entered its fourth week. APP

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Pahina. 5

## WALANG DAPAT IPANGAMBA SA MARTIAL LAW

HALOS hindi na magkanda-tuto sa pagpapaliwanag si Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Resty Padilla Jr. sa pagpapakahulugan ni Pangulong Rodrigo sa posibilidad na muling pagdedeklara ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Ito ay sakaling panigan ng Supreme Court ang petisyon ng ilang sektor na kumukuwestiyon sa kung ano ang katotohanan sa nasabing deklarasyon.

Sa pahayag ng heneral, hindi naman daw tinukoy ni Pangulong Duterte na aabusuhin niya ang Martial Law kapag ibinalik niya ito sakaling panigan ng SC ang petisyon ng ilang sektor na

kumukuwestiyon sa validity nito.

Kung ating hihimay-himayin, ang pagpapakahulugan ng Punong Ehekutibo tungkol sa sinabi niyang, "mas magiging malalim ang gobyerno sa pagpataw sa Batas Militar sa Mindanao" sakaling panigan ng SC ang petisyon.

Kung ako ang tatanungin, wala akong nakikitang mali para kuwestiyunin ang Pangulo sa pagkakasabi nito na magiging mas malalim ang gobyerno sa pagpataw ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Dahil wala namang binanggit ang Pangulo ukol sa pangalawang pagdedeklara nito ng Batas Militar sa Mindanao na kanyang ipakakala-

boso o ipapapatay ang sinomang pinaghihinalaang labag sa batas.

At wala rin namang dapat ikatakot ang mamamayan sa Martial Law lalo pa't wala ka namang ginagawang masama laban sa gobyerno, o wala ka namang isinusulong na pag-aaklas.

Pulitika ang nakikita ko kaya lumalaki ang isang isyu na hindi naman dapat palakihin ng mga anti-Duterte. 'Yunyun.



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Pahina. 3

EDUARD O. MORALES, CHIEF OF STAFF

GRABE naman itong New People's Army na hukbo ng Partido Komunista, galit yata sa bansa natin.

Biro ninyo, napakalaki ng problema ng gobyerno sa Marawi na nilusob ng mga teroristang Muslim na kaanib ng tinatawag na "Islamic State" (IS) na kahit ang mga Amerikano at Ruso ay hirap silang talunin sa Syria at Iraq.

Isang buwan na ang labanan sa Marawi, dahil ang mga terorista ay hindi basta-basta mabomba ng militar natin na nag-iingat para walang mapatay na sibilyan.

Mga 62 sundalo natin ang napatay, habang 257 naman na ang napatay na miyembro ng Maute Group-IS. Isang dahilan sa lakas ng Maute-IS ay napakalaki ng pondo nito.

Hindi lang ito nanggagaling sa IS sa Syria at Iraq na nakamkam ang mga langis doon. Nanggaling din ito sa paglahok ng Maute-IS sa ilegal na droga.

Mga P100 milyon ang natagpuan ng militar sa isang bahay sa Marawi, matapos



## NPA, galit yata sa bayan

tumakas ang mga terorista na naroon nang mga ilang linggo na. Hindi lang 'yan Kulu-kulong shabu na ang halaga ay P250 milyon ang nakuha rin ng militar sa mga Maric.

Matinding hamon ang Maute-IS sa bansa natin. Kapag hindi sila matalo at mapaalis kaagad sa Marawi ay susuportahan sila hindi lang ng ibang mga rebeldeng Muslim, pati na rin ng mga terorista sa buong mundo.

Mayroon na ngang mga taga-Indonesia at mga bayan sa Middle East na nakasama ng Maute-IS na napatay sa bakbakan noon.

Habang matindi ang bakbakan sa Marawi, ito namang NPA, ano ang ginagawa?

Nilusob ng may 70 NPA noong Hunyo 20 ang istasyon ng pulisya ng Maasin sa Ilo-ilo. Walang kalaban-laban ang pulis doon kaya sumirender na lang sila.

Kinuha ng mga rebelde ang mga armalite at mga sasakyan ng mga pulis para tumakas.

Ipinagyabang pa ng NPA ang paglusob nila sa Maasin. Kesyo galit daw ang mamamayan doon sa mga pulis at ang sabi pa ng tagapagsalita nila ay bahagi naman daw ang pulisya sa sinasabi nilang all-out-war ng gobyerno laban sa NPA.

Nahihibang na ba sila o nagdodroga na rin? Tuluy-tuloy ang pag-uusap ng gobyerno at ng kinatawan ng NPA at ng Partido Komunista sa Norway.

Para ngang magbabarkada na ang mga negosyador natin tulad nina Sylvestre Bello at

Jess Dureza at ang mga komunistang negosyador na tulad nina Jose Maria Sison at Fidel Agcaoili kung pagbabasehan ang mga litrato nila na nailathala sa mga pahayagan.

Nag-alok pa ang mga ito na tutulong daw ang NPA sa Marawi! Niloloko pa tayo.

Hindi lang sa Maasin umatake ang NPA habang nakikidigma ang militar natin sa mga terorista sa Marawi.

Tinambangan nila noong Hunyo 18 ang isang trak ng Army sa Quezon at ilan ding mga sundalo ang nasugatan.

Kung anu-ano pa ang sinasabi ng NPA kung bakit umatake sila. Subalit, ang katotohanan daw ay matapang silang lumusob sa mga puwersa ng gobyerno, dahil ang atensiyon at puwersa ng militar natin ay nasa Marawi.

Galit yata sa bansa natin ang NPA at gusto pang pahinain ang puwersa ng militar na nakikipaglaban sa mga terorista. Hindi na yata ito mga Pilipino.

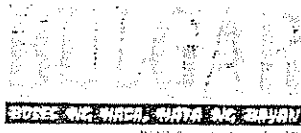
Maling-mali ito. Dapat tiyakin ng mga ne-

gosyador ng komunista na susunod ang NPA sa liderato nila na ang sinasabing patakaran ay magkaroon ng tinatawag na "peace settlement", ang pagtatapos ng kaniyang armadong pakikibaka laban sa gobyerno.

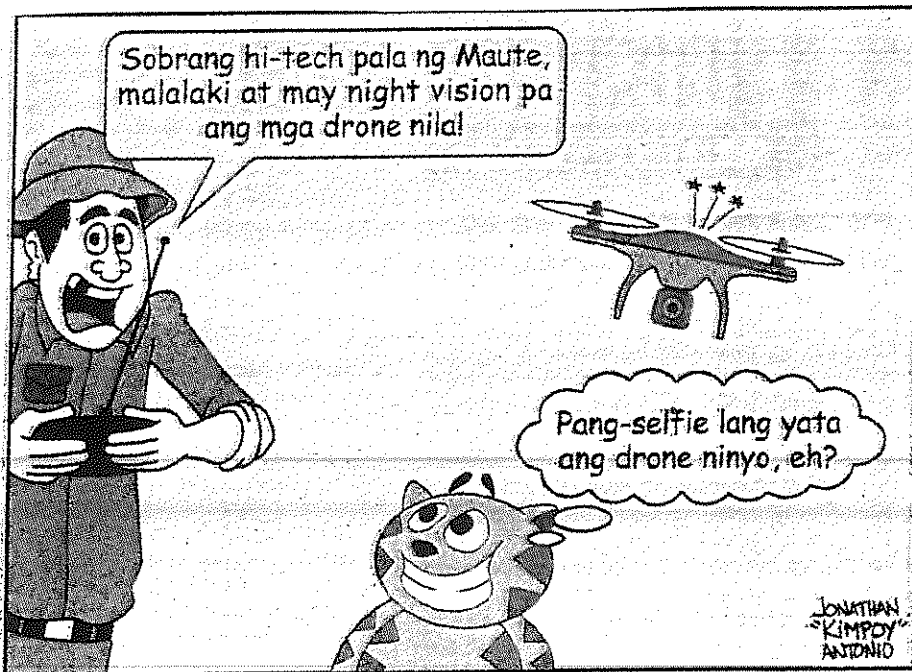
Hindi naman dapat na sunud-sunuran na lang sa mga komunista ang mga negosyador nating sina Bello at Dureza. Kapag umatake ang NPA, dapat itigil kaagad ang usapan nila sa mga komunista at mag-demand sa kanila na walang labanan habang mayroong peace talks.

Hindi lang nagmumukhang tanga ang gobyerno natin. Nagmumukha ring walang sariling paninindigan at walang lakas. Kung ganyan, lumalabas na ang gobyerno natin ay pinaglaruan lang ng mga negosyador ng Partido Komunista.

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Pahina. 3



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Pahina. 3

**IKINAKANDADO** na ng mga sundalo ang ilang bahay na walang tao para hindi mulooban at para malaman na tin nila na ligtas na ang bahay mula sa mga terorista.

May mga ulat na nilolooban na ang ilang bahay sa Marawi. Nabuli ng pulisya ang dalawang tao na may bitbit na sound system at TV.

Malinaw na kinuha nila mula sa isang bahay Marawi namang itinanggi ng AFP na mga sundalo ang nagnanakaw ng mga kagamitan sa mga bahay.

Ito naman ang ayaw nating mangyari. Kawawa naman ang mga residente na napilitang lumikas mula sa labanan, mananakawan pa. Ito ay kung may utwian pa silang bahay na walang danyos mula sa labanan.

Sang-ayon tayo na maglabas ng utos ang PNP o si Pangulong Duterte mismo na puwede nang barilin ang mga nagnanakaw ng kagamitan sa Marawi para walang mapagsamantalahan ang mga kriminal.

Nakita na rin natin ang ganitong senaryo kinabukasan nang ragasam ng Bagyong Yolanda ang Tacloban. Naging laganap ang pagkuha ng kahit ano mula sa mga tindahan kung saan walang nagawa ang mga awtoridad.

Maintindihan natin kung pagkain, tubig at damit ang kinuha, pero mga TV, stereo at kung anu-ano pang hindi naman pangangailangan?

AT hindi lang sa Marawi nagaganap ang nakawan. Ayon sa isang mambabatas, ilang biktima ng trahedyang sa Resorts World Manila



## Mga mahuhuling nagnanakaw sa mga biktima ng krisis sa Marawi, barilin!

ang nakawan ng kagamitan at pera.

May naka-withdraw pa raw ng pera mula sa ATM ng isang biktima, tatlong araw matapos ang insidente.

Hindi na tayo magtataka kung ganu'n na kadalang maglabas ng pera kapag hawak na ang ATM. Maraming mga kriminal diyari na marunong maghanap ng mga PIN number.

Lagi na lang problema ito. Mga nananamantala ng mga biktima ng trahedyang. Rato makikita na hindi talaga nagkakaisa ang maraming Pilipino, lalo na sa oras ng krisis.

Kani-kanya at nananamantala pa, imbes na magtulungan. Katilangang may mas maayos na proseso ang mga awtoridad para maiwasan ang pananamantala sa mga biktima ng trahedyang.

Pero sa totoo lang, nagsisimula 'yan sa tao mismo. Kung walang masamang bahid sa pagkatao, hindi gagawin ang magnakaw mula sa patay.

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Pahina. 3

## **Biktima na ng giyera, binibiktima pa ng scam!**

**A** NG mga kawatan talaga lahat na lang ng pagkakataong puwedeng manamantala, ginagamit.

Katunayan dito ang ilang ulat na dumarami raw ang fundraising activities tulad ng benefit lunch and dinners para sa pamilya ng mga sundalo at evacuees sa Marawi.

Kaya ang AFP nagbabala na agad sa publiko na mag-ingat sa paglaganap ng scam na nananamantala sa kaguluhan sa Marawi para makalikom ng pera.

Aba, teka lang, ibang klase pala ang mga ito, pati mga gustong makatulong, nakuha pang biktimahin. At ang masaklap, pati tulong na para sana sa mga biktima ng kaguluhan ay nakuha pa nilang nakawin, ibang klase rin talaga.

At para sa mga kababayan nating gustong makatulong tulad ng paalala ng AFP, tanging dalawang bank accounts lamang daw sa Land Bank of the Philippines ang awtorisado sa pagtanggap ng donasyon para sa mga evacuee at pamilya ng mga sundalong napatay sa Marawi.

Kumbaga, bago tayo mag-donate, suriin muna nating maigi kung awtorisado ba ang naturang fundraising o hindi? Baka kasi sa huli sa halip na nakatulong na tayo ay isa pa tayo sa naging biktima ng panloloko?

At sana, turuan din ng leksiyon ng gobyerno ang mga kapalmuks na scammer dahil sa totoo lang, walang kapatawaran ang ginagawa nilang panloloko sa taumbayan at pagnanakaw sa mga biktima ng kaguluhan.

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# End the fighting before we become another Mideast

**W**E must take decisive steps to keep the fighting in Marawi City from escalating into a bigger war that could involve other nations.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has cleared most of the 96 barangays of Marawi City and is now concentrating on four barangays where the Maute with Islamic State (IS)-supported fighters from Indonesia and Malaysia continue to hold out. The United States is assisting the Philippine forces under our Mutual Defense Treaty with surveillance and other technical support, but with “no boots on the ground.”

Last week, American lawmakers belonging to President Donald Trump’s Republican Party came out to call for a bigger US involvement than the current “advise and assist” role. Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst expressed fear that Marawi may become a new center for Islamic fighters from Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world. “We need to address the situation,” he said. “It should not get out of control.”

The AFP has disclosed that about 40 foreigners have been among the 500 involved in the fighting in Marawi, with at least one Saudi, a Chechen, and a Yemeni among those killed.

An Islamic State propaganda video released through the Amaq News Agency website advised jihadists that if they find it hard to join the fighting in Syria and Iraq, they should proceed instead to the Philippines.

Already deeply involved in the fight against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq are Russia and the US, but these two nations have found themselves on opposite sides in Syria. Russia is fighting with the Syrian government against several rebel forces that include the Islamic State. The US is supporting the Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Arab and Kurdish forces, that is fighting the Islamic State while battling the Syrian government.

If the fighting in Mindanao should widen to include more combatants from the US, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, we can expect the kind of bloody confusion that has befallen Syria, Iraq, and the rest of the Middle East.

We thus hope that our Armed Forces will soon be able to put an end to the fighting in Marawi, before combatants from other nations, each driven by their respective interests and causes, get drawn to the fighting and the Philippines becomes another confused battleground like the Middle East.

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## IGNORE 'NOISE' ABOUT US MILITARY PRESENCE IN MARAWI BATTLE

**T**he US military presence in Marawi, which was sought out by our defense officials, is a welcome development as it translates into "technical support and assistance" for our troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf-Maute terrorists that went on a rampage to destroy the city. Obviously the group appears to have long prepared for this "war," given the presence of Islamic State-inspired fighters from the Middle East, Malaysia, Indonesia and many other countries.

Since the outbreak of the "battle for Marawi" last May 23, the terrorists seem to have limitless firepower, ammunition and local fighters. And they are using civilians as "shields" to deter government troops from launching all-out attacks on what remains of the terrorists' "strongholds."

I grieve and condole with the families of the officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police who lost their lives to liberate Marawi from the terrorists.

On the other hand, the security sector should just ignore the expected noise that the communists, leftists and their allies will make in criticizing the US assistance. From the very beginning, the Left has done nothing for our country except to extort money, burn property, harass ordinary citizens, and commit other crimes. The Left is all noise and lip service to the poor. Nothing more.

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## MARAWI SIEGE INVITING FOREIGN TERRORISTS?

It is amazing how a small fraction of the Muslim population is causing so much trouble as to invite a global proxy war in Mindanao. The Mautes are just a tiny clan with about 200 followers. Their issue is not ideological but feudal—a small clan war. They are being used by the Abu Sayyaf, which is also a small terrorist group, albeit powerful.

The Abu Sayyaf's power is anchored on two factors.

First is the millions of pesos from ransom. As of May 2017, after the group beheaded a decrepit German, it had 27 hostages. At the conservative average estimate of P10 million per hostage, the group could rake in P270 million, or about a quarter of a billion pesos from this number of hostages. Note that the group takes hostages from everywhere, daring recently to expand its kidnap-for-ransom operation to Bohol. The P52.2 million seized by the Marines in Marawi comes from ransom income or from the Islamic State (IS) itself.

Second is its link to IS whose goal is a global caliphate. The idea of a caliphate in Marawi, the largest Muslim city in the Philippines, is pure megalomania, an illusion that the Abu Sayyaf inherited from the IS. An IS rather than Abu Sayyaf strategy, the Marawi war has reportedly drawn foreign Muslim warriors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Chechnya. The IS, using the Abu Sayyaf, wants to replicate the Syrian proxy war, where foreign warriors outnumber local rebels. They want a blood bath. The burning of a Catholic church and the beheadings carry an IS signature and are a provocation.

President Duterte says he was not told about the US presence in Marawi. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Pentagon have formed a more intimate bond through the Balikatan war games. The AFP took the risk of not telling Mr. Duterte ahead of time, thinking he will agree to the effective US role. Is the United States violating the mutual defense treaty?

The US presence, even if limited to noncombatants, is dangerous. True, it is effective in giving critical antiterror training, technology and sophisticated weapons, with drones and the P3 Orion surveillance plane identifying targets, and the OV-10 Bronco doing "precision" bombings. But US presence is inviting the global escalation of the Marawi crisis. The precision bombings, as in Aleppo and Mosul, will result in a lot of Muslim civilian casualties. These atrocities will invite further rapid global escalation.

The AFP-Pentagon combine miscalculated the power of Abu Sayyaf-Maute. Their intel failed to identify massive sophisticated armaments. The AFP is good in jungle warfare, but not in house-to-house urban warfare, that is why it lost the initiative momentarily.

Both AFP-Pentagon and Abu Sayyaf-Maute are dug in, with Agus River as their demarcation line; this promises a protracted war. Time favors the Abu Sayyaf as more foreign troops and funds may pour in. The AFP has to finish this war soonest before it explodes into a full-blown Mindanao war.

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## *To destroy is not to save*

**F**or at least 12 hours on Wednesday, fierce fighting engulfed parts of the town of Pigcawayan in North Cotabato. A large group of Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front rebels attacked an outpost of the Barangay People's Augmentation Team in Malagakit village, but the Philippine Army was able to quickly send reinforcements and engaged the BIFF attackers. No casualties were reported, on either side.

When the rebels retreated, they took several civilians with them. A BIFF spokesperson, Abu Misri Mama, denied allegations that the civilians were used as hostages. "We protected them from the bullets of the Army. We will release them later. We did not use them as human shields," he said. But this is absurd. The civilians were minding their own business before the rebels attacked the militia outpost. The view offered by Capt. Nap Alcarioto, spokesperson for the 602nd Infantry Brigade, is much more credible: The civilians were taken precisely to cover the rebels' retreat.

Several dozen families were temporarily displaced by the fighting; there were residents who were trapped in their homes during the incident; classes throughout the town were suspended, affecting some 15,000 students.

Tactically, the attack by the BIFF, a splinter group that broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, succeeded only in temporarily distracting the attention of



At the Armed Forces. But it could not have been an attempt to ease the pressure of the military offensive against the Maute group in Marawi City, about 200 kilometers away. "It's too small an effort. It was just a harassment case," Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told reporters in Malacañang.

But strategically, the consequences of the BIFF attack can be serious—if the government responds in exactly the wrong way.

The tragic conflict in Marawi, now on its fourth week, is a cautionary tale. Despite the consistent assurances of the Armed Forces that the problem

posed by the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf could be contained, President Duterte imposed martial law in all of Mindanao. Despite the steady progress of the military campaign to restore order in Marawi, the President continued to wax pessimistic about the threat posed by the so-called IS—the terror network that is losing ground in Iraq and Syria and in its desperation is now encouraging attacks elsewhere in the world by both organized armed groups and so-called lone wolves. A couple of days ago, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said: "We continue to recover and control strategic areas in the cleared area and the enemy resistance is waning, their controlled area diminishing." But on Tuesday, Mr. Duterte suggested that, just to end the conflict in the historic city, he was open to the idea of carpet-bombing Marawi.

This is a horrifying idea, and certain to fan the flames of the radicalism that makes the IS ideology attractive to alienated, disempowered men. The President has the right impulse, not to waste soldiers' lives. But he must go beyond thinking that there are no other choices left.

"I will not put the soldiers at high risk. If I have to bomb the ... if I have to flatten the place, I will do it. And I will take full responsibility for it," he said. "I will order the bombing ... carpet already, carpet ah ... I will really destroy everything."

This is to follow the tragically mistaken American strategy during the Vietnam War, when villagers were massacred and villages were destroyed as part of an effort to defend what was then known as South Vietnam. Do we really want to go down this path, where to save Marawi we need to destroy it?

Sadly, the President has started talking about a civil war in Mindanao, between Christians and Muslims.

In the Armed Forces' perspective, the BIFF attack on Wednesday was merely an "opportunistic activity." If the government decides to make it bigger than it is, and responds by reducing the options available and at the same time escalating the tensions, then the question of long-term strategic consequences for the country will rear its ugly, monstrous head.

**CARPET-BOMBING  
MARAWI IS A HORRIFYING  
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TO FAN THE FLAMES  
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## ONLINE NEWS

### 23 JUNE 2017

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## AFP ready for any retaliatory attacks

MANILA, June 22 -- With the military soon-to-conclude its operations against Maute Group remnants in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday announced it has prepared all of its units for possible retaliatory attacks by ISIS and other terror groups.

"There are always such threats, and our answer is that we're ready to respond," said AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla in Filipino.

However, he said they are still to detect or monitor such threats from any terrorist cell or group.

"They (Maute Group and their allies) are still very much in the defensive, they are all locked there (in Marawi City) and we have not monitored any (movement that would indicate that they are planning attacks against other civilian and military targets)," Padilla disclosed.

And as the Marawi City crisis reaches its first month anniversary Friday, he admitted that totally neutralizing the remaining terrorists is complicated engagement because of the urban terrain with the enemy well aware of their positional advantage.

Padilla cited the cases of military units in the Middle East, despite their firepower and numerical superiority, of having extreme difficulty in combating ISIS terrorists when it comes to the urban setting.

"In the case (of) the Battle of Mosul (in Iraq), it is still ongoing up to now, (having) started October 2016 and it not yet finished yet (despite) been going on for eight months. In Libya (which conducted operations against) ISIS/Daesh (terrorists) the battle started May 12 and ended only last Nov. 6, so it lasted over six months, in the Battle of Ramadi where American and Iraqi militaries combined to fight the ISIS terrorists, the operation started April and ended only on November 2006 and during the Second Battle of Fallujah (where the Iraqi, American and British forces combined) against Al-Qaeda terrorists, operations lasted Nov. 7 up to Dec. 23, 2004," he added.

"So if you will compare it to this current and ongoing engagement, the terrain is very much the same, and we are doing this very carefully we have compounding complex of issues, presence of hostages, residents in their homes refusing to leave, and continued discovery of improvised explosive devices, (necessitating) the door-to-door clearing operations our soldiers must practice," Padilla pointed out. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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## PH intensifies fight vs terror as foreign terrorists move to Asia

By Leslie D. Venzon

The Philippines is intensifying its cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia in the fight against terrorism, as terrorists who may be ousted from Mosul in Iraq are expected to move to Asia, said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año.

Año told reporters they were closely monitoring the situation amid indication there were attempts from foreign fighters to come to the Philippines.

He noted that allied forces in Mosul are forecasting to achieve victory over Islamic States (ISIS) in six months.

"So we expect that those who will be displaced there will move to Asia. And because of the Marawi crisis, parang magnet itong Pilipinas (Philippines can be the terrorists' magnet)," he said on the sidelines of trilateral security meeting between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines held here Thursday.

Año bared that Philippine authorities have monitored 40 foreign terrorists across the country, half of which are Indonesians. The remaining 20 are Malaysians, Saudis and Yemenis.

To jointly combat terrorism, the AFP chief said the three countries are sharing counterterrorism information.

Año noted Malaysians and Indonesians were normally recruited by the ISIS as the group wanted to set up a base in Southeast Asia.

He added the launching of trilateral maritime patrol was aimed at countering terrorism.

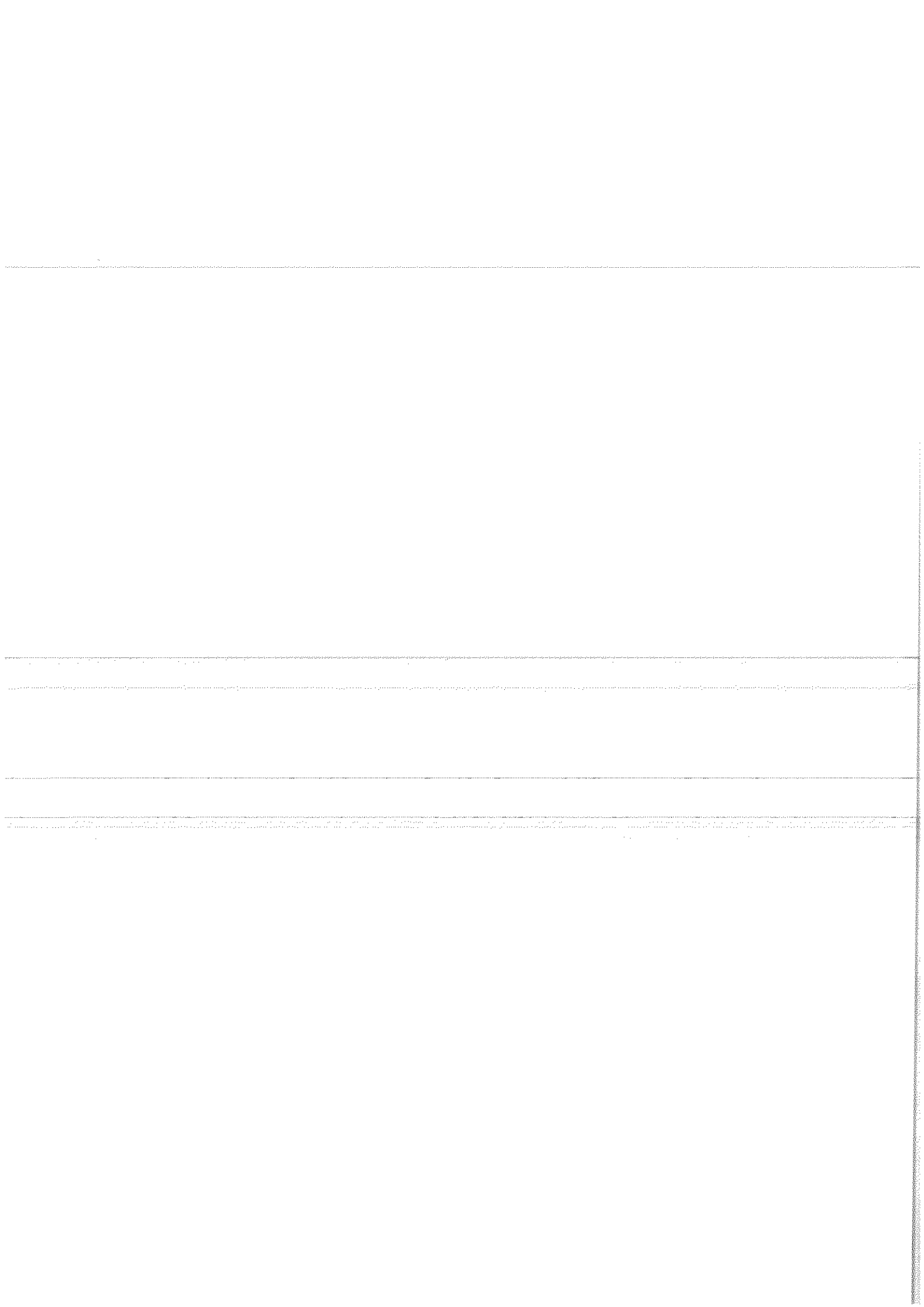
The joint maritime operations by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to fight transnational crimes and terrorism in the Sulu Sea were launched last Monday in Tarakan, North Kalimantan, Indonesia.

"Not only intelligence, sharing information but (also) joint training. There is an ongoing joint training on counterterrorism and HADR (humanitarian assistance and disaster relief)," Año added.

The AFP chief also stressed there was no need for assistance from Indonesian and Malaysian troops for the Marawi fighting.

"What is only important here is the information sharing and probably supporting each other for example helping us to observe their ways in order for us to legislate laws that will help us," Año added. (PNA)

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## Troops, residents in Marawi get free texts, calls for 15 days

Troops battling the terrorist Maute Group in Marawi City got a much-needed boost in morale after telecommunications company, Globe, announced it is providing 15 days of free texts to all networks and free calls to Globe and TM subscribers in the locality, starting Thursday afternoon.

"Communication is of extreme importance in any instance of disaster, be it natural or man-made. As a telecommunication company with the purpose of treating people right, Globe fully supports the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and DICT (Department of Information and Communication Technology) who are experiencing these challenges by reconnecting them with their families and helping make the situation a little easier to bear," Globe president and chief executive officer Ernest Cu said.

He said the free services for their Globe and TM pre-paid subscribers in Marawi City will allow residents and soldiers to communicate with their loved ones even if they do not have pre-paid load.

The ceremonial switching of service took place at the AFP Cyber Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Cu said they are amenable to extending their free service if needed.

AFP deputy chief-of-staff for communications, electronics and information systems, Maj. Gen. Jose Tanjuan Jr., lauded Globe's gesture as this will afford troopers an open line of communication with their loved ones.

"We would like to thank the DICT and Globe Telecom for affording us this avenue for our embattled in Marawi to maintain communication lines with their families and loved ones during this critical time as they defend the Republic against lawless elements," he said.

On the fourth week of the conflict, which began May 23, a total of 258 Maute Group terrorists have been killed, along with 65 troops and police officers, and 26 civilians.

AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, earlier said that a total of 16 buildings, formerly occupied by the lawless elements, have been retaken in the past few days.

He however declined to comment on how many buildings need to be retaken to ensure the total elimination of the Maute elements in Marawi City.

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"Enemy resistance continues to wane and the enemy-held areas continue to diminish as government security forces press their advance... Troops continue to get deeper into once enemy-held positions," Padilla said.

Fighting as of this posting was confined to four barangays.

Padila said the use of snipers, improvised explosive devices, and rocket-propelled grenades were slowing down the military's clearing operations. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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## Military wants public assistance in beating terror threats

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is urging the public to report the presence of suspicious looking individuals and packages to authorities as part of efforts to curb terror threats in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

In the same vein, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said they also coordinating with the Philippine National Police (PNP) to further beef up the security of the metropolis.

Arevalo added that measures are already instituted but the AFP still needs the help of the civilians to make these foolproof.

And when asked why the military is not sharing all the information, the AFP official said this is because they don't want to cause panic.

The AFP public affairs office chief also assured the public that security forces are doing their job in going after local terrorists.

Earlier, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla they have not so far receive any intelligence information that members of the Maute Group are planning to conduct bombings in Metro Manila.

He issued this statement following the circulation of a memorandum coming from the Valenzuela Police Station-Station Intelligence Branch of the alleged Maute plot to conduct bombings in Trinoma, SM Cubao, and Quezon City Circle, all in Quezon City and certain places in Quiapo, Manila and Makati. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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